THE NEW
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DOMESTIC AIR TRAVEL TO GET COSTLIER AS BASE FARE HIKED

Starting June 1, airfare would be 13-16% costlier, while carriers can operate at 50% of fleet capacity from the existing 80%

DURATION-BASED HIKE, LOWEST FARE AT ₹2,300

Fare for less than 40 minute travel will be hiked from ₹2,300 to ₹2,600. Flights between 40- and 60-minute duration will have fares at a lower limit of ₹3,300. For flights of 60-90 minute duration, fare will be charged at ₹4,000; 90-120 minutes at ₹4,700; 150-180 minutes at ₹6,100; and 180-210 minutes will cost ₹7,400, the Ministry of Civil Aviation announced

SLUMP IN TRAFFIC AMID SECOND WAVE

- The ministry said the revision was made after a surge in Covid cases resulted in a marked decrease in passenger traffic
- The new fare price limit will not include taxes and the airport development fees, which will be added to the passenger fare
- New fares will see a rise of ₹300 to ₹1,000 depending on duration

2nd hike

IN THREE MONTHS. IN FEBRUARY, THE FARE WAS HIKED BY 10-13%

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Lockdown in state may not be extended beyond June 7, says Yediyurappa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH a slight decline in Covid cases and positivity rate over the last few days in the State, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Saturday expressed confidence that the situation would come under control in the next four to five days.

After his three-hour meeting with elected representatives and officers from districts that are reporting a high number of cases, he said, "The lockdown will continue till June 7 and it will be implemented strictly. The decision on its extension will be taken depending on the situation. If people cooperate with us, probably the question of extending it may not arise."

Revenue Minister R Ashoka and other elected representatives from Bengaluru suggested that the restriction in Bengaluru should be lifted in a phased manner. The lockdown has helped Bengaluru as the number of cases has gone down from a peak of 22,000 to around 5,000 now, Ashoka said. "We suggested to the chief minister that export-oriented industries should be reopened first, and other sectors later. He will take the final decision," he added.

Earlier in the day, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the chief minister will decide on the lockdown extension after discussing it with ministers. As the Centre has directed that Covid guidelines be followed till June 30, the CM will discuss this too with ministers before taking the decision, he added. During the meeting, the CM instructed MPs, MLAs and officers from Mysuru, Hassan, Belagavi, Kalaburagi and Vijayapura districts to bring down the positivity rate to less than 10 per cent. P3

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KARNATAKA	MAY 28	MAY 29
Fresh cases	22,823	20,628
Recoveries	52,253	42,444
Deaths	401	492

NATIONWIDE	MAY 28	MAY 29
Fresh cases	1,86,364	1,73,790
Recoveries	2,59,459	2,84,601
Deaths	3,660	3,617

EXPRESS READ

Bar Council extends ₹1.06 cr Covid aid to lawyers

Bengaluru: The Karnataka State Bar Council (KSBC) has extended financial aid of ₹1.06 crore to 733 lawyers infected with Covid-19. The KSBC has sanctioned ₹10,000 each for lawyers in home quarantine, and ₹25,000 each for advocates admitted in hospitals | P4

Mandya cops seize pregnant doc's daily commute

Mangya: A pregnant doctor working at Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences had to go through an ordeal after the autorickshaw she uses regularly to commute to hospital was allegedly confiscated by the police, amidst the total lockdown in the district | P4

BJP MLA taking money per vax from pvt hospital: Cong

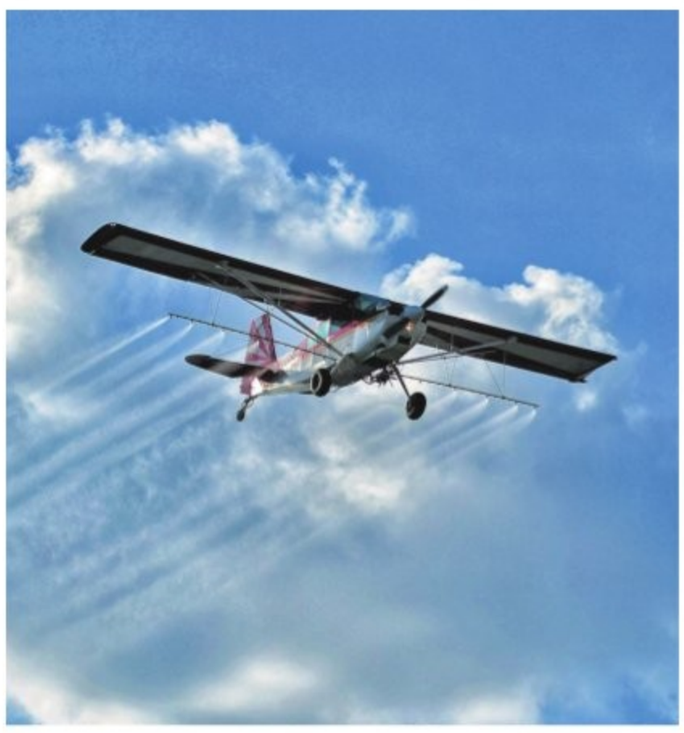
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AFTER allegations that BJP MLA Ravi Subramanya is taking ₹700 per Covid vaccine from a private hospital, and that his MP-nephew Tejasvi Surya is promoting the private hospital through advertisements surfaced on Saturday, KPCC president DK Shivakumar and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah demanded that an FIR be filed and a high court-monitored probe be ordered against the two BJP leaders.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera in New Delhi too alleged that an audio tape has surfaced on social media sites, where a private hospital representative is heard saying that they have to pay Rs 700 per vaccine to Ravi Subramanya.

Khera demanded that the two BJP leaders should be removed as MLA and MP.

Both Tejasvi Surya and Ravi Subramanya denied the charges. On Saturday, Shivakumar said, "The allegations against Ravi Subramanya of taking commission for vaccines are serious. MP Tejasvi Surya has been promoting paid vaccination at private hospitals." P3



An aircraft which will spray organic disinfectant over highly-populated areas of Bengaluru, as part of a three-day pilot project launched by BBMP, takes flight from Jakkur Aerodrome on Saturday. The DGCA, however, has clarified that no permission has been granted for the exercise, since the plane will be flying at a precariously low altitude of about 500 feet | SHRIRAM BN | P2

Real efficacy of Covaxin, Covishield under ICMR lens

4,000 vaccinated people across 10 cities in India being tracked

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

IN a bid to address concerns that Covid vaccines may not be offering full protection from serious infection, the Indian Council of Medical Research has started a crucial project to measure the real-world effectiveness of Covishield and Covaxin, authorities told TNIE. The exercise, which started earlier this week, is to peruse post-vaccination effects to understand if they run contrary to clinical trial results.

Anecdotal reports suggest that a number of people who have taken two doses of both Covishield as well as Covaxin have landed in hospitals after contracting the virus and a few have died. However, there is no concrete official data on such people so far. There have also been concerns that these vaccines may be less effective against the B.1.6.17 variant of SARS-CoV-2, the strain that has been driving the second wave of the pandemic in India.

The exercise led by the Chennai-based National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), under the ICMR, is using a case-control protocol of tracking about 4,000 people at 11 sites across 10 cities in India. Tarun Bhatnagar, a scientist with the NIE and also the principal investigator for the study, said while clinical trials give the efficacy data on whether vaccines will work, effectiveness study will gauge whether vaccines are working in real-world settings in preventing serious Covid. "This study is also crucial to determine whether the effect of vaccines is influenced by other factors such as age, prior Covid, number of doses and variants among others," he added.

Besides, the vaccination status of nearly 1,300 severe Covid-19 patients admitted in hospitals will be compared with that of 2,600 persons who are found Covid -ve in tests.

"If the vaccines are effective, the proportion of the unvaccinated should be much higher among the 1,300 than among the 2,600," said an ICMR official. "The study is expected to yield an actual number for effectiveness in percentage terms and the results are expected within the next 2-3 months."

PM-CARES to support Covid-orphaned children

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Centre on Saturday decided that children who have lost both their parents due to Covid-19 will be supported under 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme, which will ensure educational their needs, including higher education.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliberate on the steps needed to help such Covid-orphaned children. The PM announced a number of benefits to children impacted by the current pandemic.

PM CARES will contribute through a specially designed scheme to create a corpus of ₹10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age. The corpus will then be used to give monthly financial support for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements including higher education. Upon reaching the age of 23 years, he or she will get the corpus amount as a lump-sum payment.

The scheme will also take full responsibility for the educational needs of such children, as they will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar. PM-CARES will pay for expenditure on uniform, text books and notebooks of such children.

Children in the 11-18 age group will be given admission in any Central government residential school such as Sainik School, Navodaya Vidyalaya etc.

The scheme will also ensure enrollment of such children under Ayushman Bharat Scheme with a health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh. Premium for these children till the age of 18 years will be paid by PM-CARES. P7

K'TAKA ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL SCHEME TO HELP COVID ORPHANS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Government on Saturday announced the Bala Seva scheme to provide financial assistance to children who have lost their parents to Covid.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said that ₹3,500 per month will be given to guardians/caretakers of such children. Children below 10 years old, who do not have guardians, will be put under registered childcare institutions and admitted to model residential schools.

"For children who have completed 10th standard, a free laptop or a tablet will be provided. For girls who have completed 21 years, ₹1 lakh will be provided for their marriage expenses, higher education or self-employment," Yediyurappa said, and added that mentorship will be provided for the overall development of such children.

CONTINUE ON: P3

Second Covid wave blew all preparations away: Nirmala

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

THE intensity and scale of Covid second wave shook off the preparations in the country, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman, who along with other experts from various fields, discussed the scenario after the second wave in the country on Saturday.

A virtual edition of IIMBueX, a leadership conclave organised by the alumni of IIM-Bangalore, had Dr Devi Shetty, cardiac surgeon and chairperson of IIM-B Board of Governors, Dr Gagandeep Kang, clinical scientist, Hrish Mittal, president of IIMBAA, Prof Chinmay Tumbe, author of Age of Pandemics and faculty, IIM-Ahmedabad and others. Sitharaman said, "The second wave hit us so hard that there was no preparation. The amount of medicines and other infrastructure was not adequate and this resulted in a severe period of stress. However, the peak is coming down. We hope to maintain the downward trend."

Dr Shetty pointed out, "We need to ramp up the healthcare system, by not building more hospitals, but by focusing on setting up nursing colleges, doubling medical seats and starting a micro-health insurance which can be accessed through phone... there should be a panel of experts to address the third wave."

'We'll see 6b jabs this yr'

Dr Gagandeep Kang, a top clinical scientist, said, "The vaccine rollout was slow because supply chains are set up to handle only so much. An estimation done last year anticipated that around 2.5 billion doses could be made in 2021. But with a lot of effort by multilateral agencies and governments, we think we will have 6 billion or more doses this year."

INTERVIEW

'PREPARE NOW TO PROTECT KIDS IN THIRD WAVE'

Children are especially expected to be at risk during the third wave, and one needs to understand what symptoms to watch out for. This particular population needs attention and it should start now, says Dr Asha Benakappa, HoD (Paediatrics) at Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute of Medical Education and Research. P4

BEFITTING TRIBUTE

Pulwama martyr's wife quits cushy job, joins Army

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

"I love you Vibhu!" said Lt Nitika Kaul, wife of martyr Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhaundiyal, after a ceremony at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai, on Saturday.

Chief of the Army's Northern Command Lieutenant General Y K Joshi placed stars on Nitika Kaul's shoulders.

Nitika was married to Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal for 9 months when he was killed in action fighting terrorists in Pulwama, Kashmir in February 2019.

"He will always be a part of my life. I feel he is around looking at me, wishing me luck for having made it to the Army," Nitika said. An engineer by training, Nitikia holds a master's degree in business administration. She has worked with a corporate house as a business analyst for three years but left the job to join the Army. She cleared written and interview of the Services Selection Board in February 2020 and received her letter in March 2020.

"The day I stepped inside the academy, I imagined he too must have traversed the same path," said Kaul.

Vaishnavi, Nitika's sister-in-law said, "We are happy but we miss Vibhuti. Nitika has been more than brave. She picked herself quickly and decided to follow in Vibhuti's footsteps."

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ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday : 30/05/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishaka • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Chaturthi 8.23 am • Nakshatra: Uttharashada 9.20 pm • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 32°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Increasing cloudiness

Sunrise 5.52 am
Sunset 6.42 pm
Moonrise 10.54 pm
Moonset 9.36 am

BAMBOO KITES TAKE TO THE SKIES AGAIN

Ahead of Kar Hunnime celebrations, kites adorned the skies, delighting everyone

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

SOME days after May 10, when Karnataka went into lockdown, there appeared in the skies of Gadag a sight not seen for around four decades. Large kites made of bamboo and weighing over 1kg, soared high, to the delight of everyone who saw it.

People fly kites in many parts of North Karnataka ahead of the Kar Hunnime festival which usually falls in June. The weeks ahead of the festival would have been a busy time for kite makers had the second wave of Covid infections not been so virulent and widespread. But as cases began to go up in April, several kite makers delayed production due to fears that the government may pose restrictions on the celebration of Kar Hunnime which falls on June 24 this year.

Shankar Kondikoppa, a plastic kite manufacturer from Gadag says that production would begin in April, so that kites could be supplied to the surrounding villages and towns. "We hadn't started making kites yet. But this time too, we lost business as we don't know if the lockdown will be extended after June 6," he says.

With kites unavailable, many people in Gadag and Betageri have begun to make kites as they used to, a long time ago. It is mostly people in their sixties who remember how they are made and are passing on the knowledge to younger generations, especially children who haven't had regular school for months.

"Our children were very upset this year because they missed the enjoyment of flying kites. So we thought of techniques we used back in the 1960s and 70s. I contacted some of my friends and confirmed the techniques we used to make bamboo kites," says Loknath Nellur, an elderly man living in Ron with his family.

Generally, plastic kites -- which were available in shops in the district for Rs 10 – weigh about 20-30gm, while those made by professional kite fliers could weigh upwards of around 300gm.

But making traditional kites fly is no mean feat. It's an exercise in, well, exercise and team work. "We decided to make a big kite – four feet long and two feet wide. It weighs over 1.5kg, and took us four days to make," Loknath says.

Some of Loknath's friends also made kites two and three feet in length and they tried flying them. "We were successful and called the children to handle it. Though it's a little heavy for them, the children enjoyed flying the kites," Loknath says.

To find bamboo, people simply head to Nargund taluk, where it grows wild. Other materials include what they call maida gum (acacia brown gum), and thin cotton cloth (from a dhoti), and "catty dhara" a term referring to Cat Thread 10, which is what the locally available thread suitable for kite-flying is called. The tail of the kite includes a piece of jute cloth along with cotton. Since the kites are large and heavy, they require two or three people to launch them into the air.

"We all enjoyed flying the big kites this year as we need more strength to hold them. Due to the cyclone, winds were also strong and the kite went up in a minute. We've also decided to make more kites of this type rather than using polythene kites," says Charan Nayak of Ron, who flew a traditional kite around four feet long and two feet wide with his friends Prashant Kuri, Samarth Divgihalli.

Ajit Hombali of Gadag made small kites using bamboo sticks with his family. "Due to the non-availability of polythene kites, many are using bamboo kites this time. We had stopped kite-flying after plastic kites entered the market. We don't get that old paper-and-bamboo-kite enjoyment with the plastic ones. This time, I enjoyed flying paper kites and bamboo kites with my children," Ajit says.

Octogenarian Yogesh Kundagol from Gadag says, "Those were the fine days in the 60s and 70s when we flew kites made of bamboo. Those were replaced by paper kites which were also eco-friendly. But after the 90s the plastic kites entered the market and children who used to make paper kites on their own switched to buying plastic ones."

> It's a good development. It shows that time revolves, and Covid forced them to choose the old method
> — Yogesh Kundagol, Gadag

GOING OLD SCHOOL
- Bamboo sticks
- Thick thread
- Brown paper/ thin cotton cloth
- Adhesive made of maida (Shari-Gondu)
- Jute rope

In the 60s and 70s, people flew kites made out of bamboo

People fly kites in many parts of North Karnataka ahead of the Kar Hunnime festival which usually falls in June

Generally, plastic kites -- which were available in shops in the district for Rs 10 – weigh about 20-30gm, while those made by professional kite fliers could weigh around 300gm

THE HANDS THAT FEED

Squirrels in Mysuru's Curzon Park are pampered with a nutritious diet by a city businessman and his team of helpers

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

AT 6am every day, there is a wild squealing and chirping in Curzon Park in Mysuru city. A colony of squirrels leaps towards a couple of men scattering food and fancy snacks on benches and logs. It's their treat of the day.

Helping Hands Jain Youth Organisation of Mysuru has been feeding hundreds of squirrels every day for the past year, ever since the Covid-19 pandemic slowed down daily routines. While it is common to see people feeding stray dogs, cows, cats and horses, the squirrel is a rare choice.

With life coming to almost a standstill last summer, and time hanging heavy, citizens ventured out to take a fresh look at the world, with an untinted perspective.

Suresh Bohra, a businessman and member of Helping Hands Jain Youth Organisation, said they had been feeding thousands of pigeons in front of Mysuru Palace for the past 6-7 years, under its 'Kabutar Daan' project. During the 2020 lockdown, Suresh, having fed pigeons, one day ventured into Curzon Park to see if there were any more pigeons.

"I spotted a few squirrels on trees and stone benches, and offered them some bread and corn which I had. I stood back and waited to see what they would do, but none picked up the pieces. However, after some 15 minutes, they slowly came forward to smell the food. I did this for the next four or five days, but was disappointed as the squirrels remained hesitant. But soon, they felt secure about eating the food, and the number of squirrels grew," said Suresh, who leads the feeding drive with support from several other Helping Hand members, including president Mahaveer Khabiya, treasurer Rajan Baghmar and Pavan Sancheti.

Come rain or shine, Suresh keeps his date with the squirrels. Even as he and his team members enter the park, at least 80 to 100 squirrels, waiting in serpentine queues, flock to their usual feeding spot - the lawn or a stone bench. They place some bread, groundnuts and corn, which the squirrels hold with much love in their tiny paws and nibble away.

"The food we offer is a source of protein for them, and we are feeding them as per their dietary needs. Over the last year, I have not missed feeding them even a single day. Even when my father died, I sent my team member to feed them," says Suresh. "It gives a sense of satisfaction and we feel rewarded when we feed them and watch them grow."

The team spends over 90 minutes feeding them. Suresh has also fastened some cups atop tree branches, and fills them up with water to quench the squirrels' thirst. Frequent visitors to the park have observed an increase in the number of squirrels, suggesting that they are coming to Curzon Park from surrounding areas.

Rajan Baghmar said Suresh is the main patron, and they are only supporting him. "His determination and discipline need to be appreciated," he said. With human interference and other developmental activities in the cities forcing squirrels almost to extinction, the group says there needs to be a conservation plan for these furry rodents too.

Meanwhile, Helping Hands continues with its pigeon feeding 'Kabutar Daan' in front of Mysuru Palace, which has completed six years. Over 400 kg of jower, and other foodgrains are offered to them, and the scene is similar to the one in front of Trafalgar Square, which attracts people from all walks of life every morning.

Suresh Bohra and Rajan Baghmar feeding squirrels | UDAYSHANKAR S

> The food we offer is a source of protein for them, and we are feeding them as per their dietary needs. Over the last year, I have not missed feeding them even a single day. Even when my father died, I sent my team member to feed them. It gives a sense of satisfaction and we feel rewarded when we feed them and watch them grow
> — Suresh Bohra, member of Helping Hands

'Self-discipline key to contain Covid spread'

ENS @ Bengaluru

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta on Saturday said that the decrease in the number of fresh Covid-19 cases in Bengaluru was a good sign. The city saw 4,889 new cases on Saturday. Speaking to media persons, Gupta said that self-discipline by citizens was vital to ensure that the cases do not soar once again after the lockdown is lifted.

Addressing the issue of BBMP staffers demanding money for vaccinating priority list category beneficiaries and serving poor quality food in Koramanagala CCC, Gupta said an inquiry will be initiated.

Later in the day, Gupta also held a virtual meeting with members of the apartment federation and inaugurated a vaccination drive. He said apartments, in collaboration with private hospitals, have decided to vaccinate residents and 10,98,000 citizens will get the jab.

He added that in the coming days, vaccination drives will also be conducted in commercial and industrial spaces.

MAJOR RELIEF

AFTER LONG WAIT, E-CITY GETS PHC, VAX CENTRE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AFTER a long wait, a temporary primary health centre (PHC) and a vaccination centre were inaugurated in Electronics City on Saturday to help the residents of the industrial area and the surrounding villages.

The facility was inaugurated by MLA Krishnappa and Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner J Manjunath. The MLA, along with the DC, met the members of Electronics City Industrial Township Authority (ELCITA) on Saturday and said a permanent PHC will be set up after a suitable land is identified.

EXPRESS IMPACT

Covid-19 vaccination and also testing will be done at the PHC, the MLA said.

TNIE on May 14 had carried an article titled — 'With no PHCs even during pandemic, Electronics City a tech hub only for name?'— highlighting the long-pending demand of the residents of the locality. The residents had pointed out that they were forced to travel to Jigani, Anekal, Attibele, Bommanahalli or other far-off places for a health check-up.

"It is only half the battle won. The final victory will be when a permanent PHC is set up. We were dependent on Bommanahallli or South Bengaluru for medical help," said Mani R, a resident.

GET YOUR SECOND DOSE OF COVAXIN

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner announced that the second dose of Covaxin will be available in select PHCs and government hospitals, apart from private hospitals. Those who need any assistance can call **9448055948**

- Bengaluru South -- Konankunte
- Bommanahalli -- Arakere
- Dasarahalli -- Neelamaheshwari
- CV Raman Nagar -- CV Raman Hospital
- Hebbal -- Ganganagar
- Pulakeshinagar -- Robertson Street
- Sarvagna Nagar -- Kacharkanahalli
- Shanthinagar -- Ambedkar PHC, Shanthala Nagar
- Shivajinagar -- Bowring Hospital
- KR Market -- K Narayanapura
- Mahadevapura -- Doddanekundi
- RR Nagar -- Mathikere PHC
- Yeshwanthpur -- Kengeri CHC
- Basavanagudi – Vidyapeetha
- TM Layout – Adugodi
- Chickpet -- Dasappa Hospital
- Jayanagar -- Jayanagar Hospital
- Padmanabhanagar -- KS Layout
- Vijayanagar -- Bapujinagar
- Chamarajpet -- Victoria Hospital
- Gandhinagar -- KC G Hospital
- Govindarajanagar -- Hosahalli
- Mahalakshmipura -- Shankaranagar PHC
- Malleswaram – Rajajinagar PHC
- Byatarayanapura -- Tindlu PHC
- Yelahanka -- MC Palya

Palike to take aerial route in fight against virus

Spraying disinfectant from low height violates norms

The American Champion Scout aircraft that will be used to spray an organic disinfectant over parts of the city | SHRIRAM B N

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A method which has been tested in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, to reduce Covid-19 cases, will now be tried in Bengaluru from Monday, where an American Champion Scout aircraft carrying around 100 litres of organic anti- microbial solution will fly over Shivajinagar, City Market and Majestic from 8 am to 10am spraying organic disinfectant.

The activity is being taken up by Aerialworks Aero LLP and Sugardhana Organic Antimicrobial and the aircraft will take off from Jakkur Aerodrome. The spraying will be done for three days and the aircraft will fly at an altitude of 300- 500 m above the ground.

Revenue Minister R Ashok, who flagged-off the aircraft on Saturday, said it was being done on pilot basis and based on the results from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and the Health Department, it will be extended to the entire city. The government is open for all kinds of solutions and trials which will help in reducing Covid-19 cases, he said.

Karthik Narayan, CEO of Sugardhana said, the solution is citrus fruit-based with oil extracts and bio-enzyme as base. He said that in Tirunelveli, the same solution was sprayed for nine days and a 33% reduction in cases was seen by the municipal administration there.

Last year, the BBMP had sprayed chemical disinfectants in the city in an attempt to keep Covid-19 at bay.

Captain Murali Ramakrishna, who specialises in executing such large scale spraying operations, will fly the aircraft. The two liquids that will be used are Sugardhana Organic Anti-microbial Concentrate and Airlens Minus Corona, a chemical-free human safe sanitisation system.

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

WHILE the BBMP has launched an ambitious project to aerially spray organic disinfectants over the city's congested areas, starting from Jakkur in North Bengaluru on Saturday, aviation experts raised questions about carrying out the exercise from a low altitude. A BBMP official told *TNSE* that an American Champion Scout 8G-CBC aircraft took off from Jakkur on Saturday and they will be doing aerial disinfection from a height of 500 feet in 2-3 areas over the next three days.

Aviation experts point out that flying at a low height of 500 feet is dangerous and is prohibited by law. An extract from the DGCA rule book Series C Part 1 reads, "Except when necessary for take off or landing, or except by permission of the Director General a VFR flight shall not be flown over the congested areas of cities at a height of less than 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a radius of 600 metres from the ground."

When contacted, Joint Director General, DGCA, Ravi Krishna said, "We will look into this." DGCA Chief Flying Officer Vivek Chhabra said, "We have already instructed Bengaluru DGCA to look into the matter. " "Low flying is prohibited because of safety concerns and, in densely populated areas like Bengaluru, an accident can be dangerous", an expert said.

When contacted, BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said, "We have given them permission to spray from the air. But the height is not regulated by us. They have to specify the height at which they are flying to the DGCA. If they fly low and violate DGCA rules, then the DGCA shall hold them accountable."

> Except when necessary for take off or landing, or except by permission of the Director General a VFR flight shall not be flown over the congested areas of cities at a height of less than 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a radius of 600 metres from the ground
> DGCA rule book

Forest Minister Arvind Limbavalli on Saturday undertook an inspection of Gunjur land in Mahadevapura constituency. The site is one of those identified for a tree park under Bengaluru Mission 2022. He directed the BBMP and Forest Department to complete the works of plantation, footpath and parking facilities in consultation with citizens, experts and NGOs.

LOCKDOWN CURBS EASED FOR FARMERS

With monsoon approaching and sowing activity picking up, they will be allowed more time for buying seeds, fertilisers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH the monsoon set to enter the state in the next few days, the State Government has relaxed timings for farmers, from the earlier 6 am-10 am to 6 am-6 pm, to buy seeds and fertilizers during the lockdown. This is being done to allow them to work without hindrance.

Agriculture Minister B C Patil said that last year, sowing was 107 per cent of the targeted area and farmers are now gearing up for the Kharif crop. In many parts of the state, including Old Mysuru and Malnad regions, farmers have already started sowing activity. The Agriculture Department is targeting 77 lakh hectares of sowing and production of 101.38 lakh tons of food grains. The State Government is making all arrangements for farmers to get seeds and fertilizers as per their needs without any difficulty. This year, the state has received 105 mm of pre-monsoon showers till May 28, as against the normal rainfall of 159 mm, a statement said.

On the availability of seeds, the minister said there is no shortage. There are no restrictions on farmers, including on buying agriculture-related equipment. This year, there is a demand for six lakh quintals of seeds for sowing for the entire year and, as on May 28, 19,675 quintals of seeds have been distributed. This apart, there is 1.74 lakh tons of seeds in stock. There is a demand for 26.47 lakh tons of chemical fertilizers, including 7.97 lakh tons by May-end, of which 5.67 lakh tons has already been distributed. There is stock of 12.38 lakh tons, the minister added.

Officials in the Agriculture Department said that last year, the state recorded the highest food grain production at 153 lakh tons and this year, they are hoping to break the record.

BJP state unit to start Covid service in 29k villages from today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

STARTING Sunday, the state unit of the BJP will start work to help Covid-infected people in 58,000 booths across 29,000 villages in the state following all precautionary measures and adhering to Covid-19 protocols. The initiative is being taken up to mark the completion of seven years of the party's government at the Centre.

More than 25 lakh party workers will take part in the 'Seva hi Sanghatan' programme across the state simultaneously. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, N Ravikumar, senior BJP leader and BJP state secretary, said that due to continuous efforts, Covid cases in Karnataka are coming under control. As cases are expected to be more in rural areas, party workers will work in villages. They have already conducted 180 webex meetings so far, he said.

Explaining further, Ravikumar said they are aiming to help over one crore people by distributing groceries for the needy, paying school fees for students so that they can continue their education among other initiatives. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel, cabinet ministers and other senior BJP leaders will take part, he said.

On the completion of seven years in government at the Centre, Ravikumar said that ever since Narendra Modi became PM, the image of India has changed across the globe. The government has initiated many pro-farmer measures, encouraged scientists to develop our own vaccine, giving free food grains to more than 80 crore people, and is working on increasing medical facilities across the country, he claimed.

Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi interacts with staff at BIMS on Saturday | EXPRESS

Savadi raps officials over poor state of hospital

ENS @Belagavi

DEPUTY Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, who visited the Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday after public complaints and media reports, was appalled by the state of affairs and the quality of service at the hospital.

Speaking to media persons after inspecting the Covid ward at the hospital, Savadi said, "The service here is the worst. I am not sure in which language I should speak to these thick-skinned officers." He also took BIMS director Vinay Dastikop and the district health officer to task over the lack of sanitisation at the hospital.

"Nothing is right in the hospital. There is lack of coordination between the officials here. The ICU does not look like one. Relatives of patients are allowed inside the hospital and they dry clothes on the bed. I am confused whether this is a hospital or a fair. I will not hesitate to bring out this truth," Savadi remarked.

The Deputy CM, who visited the hospital wearing a PPE suit, said, "I tried to instil confidence among the patients during the visit. But I don't know how to explain the apathy in the hospital," he said, expressing his disappointment over the sorry state of affairs. "I had earlier warned the officials about the problems in the hospital. The system at BIMS Hospital must be changed," he said.

Ready to face probe, says BJP leader

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"A suo motu FIR should be filed, HC must monitor the probe and they should be disqualified by both Houses. It is now evident that there is a scam in vaccine allocation and BJP leaders are involved in diverting govt stock to private hospitals," Shivakumar added.

The private hospital, which is situated in Hosakerehalli in the Basavanagudi Assembly constituency -- represented by Ravi Subramanya, is selling the vaccines for Rs 900 to Rs 1,200, Shivakumar said.

However, Ravi Subramanya rubbished the allegations, and told *The New Sunday Express* that opposition leaders are trying to tarnish his image. "We are ready to face the probe. Let it be the chief justice or any authority. We have made no such mistakes. When people are suffering and dying, Congress is playing cheap politics. When we highlighed the bed allocation scam and while the probe is still on, they are making such allegations to mislead people."

The private hospital, which was named by Congress leaders, too issued a statement on Saturday, saying the MLA had nothing to do with their vaccination drive. "People behind this misleading information should be punished," it said.

Siddaramaiah alleged, "Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar too should be probed for appealing to the people to take Sputnik vaccine at a private hospital."

'VIRUS CAUSED BIG CRISIS'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CHIEF Minister **BS Yediyurappa** said that the government is yet to work out the details and the total amount required for the scheme. "We have decided to extend it to all those in need," he added.

Yediyurappa said Covid has caused an unprecedented crisis. In the first wave, the timely measures taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had helped people and in the second wave, the Central Government has suggested to the state to start the scheme to help children who have lost their parents, he added.

Bosch offers to fix ventilators in govt hosps

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister and State Covid Task Force Chairman Dr C N Ashwath Narayan on Saturday said Bosch has come forward to repair ventilators in government hospitals free of cost.

The company has voluntarily come forward to repair the ventilators through CSR funding as there were complaints that ventilators in many government hospitals were not in working condition, said a statement issued by the Dy-CM's office.

Appreciating the gesture of the company in this crucial situation, the deputy chief minister said they will identify the ventilators that are not in working condition and give them to the company for repairs.

There were complaints about ventilators, including those given under the PM Cares Funds, not used in many hospitals, especially at taluk hospitals, due to shortage of skilled staff.

The government had also earlier directed hospitals that were not using ventilators to hand them over to the Health Department so that they can be put to use in bigger hospitals.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister B S Yediyurapa said some ventilators received under the PM Cares Fund had required minor repairs, that has been done and all of them will be used.

EXPRESS READ

BIODIVERSITY BOARD ASKS MINISTER TO INSPECT MALNAD REGION

Bengaluru: Karnataka Biodiversity board chairman Ananth Hegde Ashisara on Saturday wrote a letter to Forest Minister Arvind Limbavalli inviting him to visit Malnad region where extensive urbanisation and development projects are being taken up, leading to loss of tree cover. In the letter, Hegde cited examples of destruction of green cover in Chikkamagalur and the Western Ghat regions for civil works, impacting biodiversity to a very large extent.

'Even as Covid cases dip, govt won't lower guard'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BENGALURU Urban, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Hassan and Ballari districts report nearly 60 per cent of all cases in the state and authorities were told to take measures to contain the infection, said a statement from the CM's Office.

The CM observed that though cases have declined slightly, the government cannot lower its guard as incidents are increasing in rural areas. Elected representatives play an important role in reducing the number of cases in their constituencies, he added.

Some elected representatives expressed concerns over shortage of drugs, staff and vaccine, to which Yediyurappa said that the government has released Rs 50 lakh under the Legislators Area Development Fund and Rs 50,000 to each gram panchayat. On staff shortage, he said the government has started the process of recruiting 1,200 doctors. On ventilators that were given to the State under the PM Cares Fund not being utilised fully, he said some of them had required minor repairs.

K'taka Tourism Society appeals to CM for aid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

MEMBERS of the Karnataka Tourism Society on Saturday appealed to CM B S Yediyurappa for a rehabilitation package for the stakeholders in the tourism, travel and hospitality sector as they have been affected by the second wave. "Even as we were trying to recover from the effect of the first wave, the second one has hit us harder. Hence, we are requesting the State Government for a relief package. There has been negative growth of 73 per cent from April-December 2020," said Society president Syama Raju.

The Society has also submitted a memorandum to Tourism Minister C P Yogeshwar, Tourism Secretary Pankaj Kumar Pandey and Sindhu B Rupesh, Director, Tourism Department. The members have demanded deferment of property taxes for the year 2021-22 and extension of time till October 31 to pay 50 per cent of the property tax, instead of May 31 as the last date with rebate. They have requested for time till March 31, 2022 to pay the remainder and similarly to extend the time to renew the excise licence fee till June 2021 and December 31, 2021. They demanded that the government waive electricity bills from April to September 2021 and energy charges be levied on actual consumption only. Since a most staffers have low income, they demanded for one-time direct monetary support and their details to be collected from ESI.

TOUGH COVID TIMES

Double whammy for food delivery agents

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

FOOD delivery partners from various platforms came together through an online movement on Saturday, holding placards with their demands, highlighting their plight.

Although food delivery services come under the umbrella of essential services in the state during the lockdown, the United Food Delivery Partners' Union said the livelihoods of these workers has been affected gravely. They have had to face a double whammy as their earnings dipped due to the number of orders going down during the lockdown while fuel prices are rising, the union said.

"Previously, I used to start work at 12 pm and end at 10 pm. But now, although I start at 6:45 am, I have to work till 11 pm to meet my targets of 25-26 clients per day," said Mansoor (name changed), an employee with one of the platforms. He said that a major chunk of his money goes towards fuel expenses. "Out of Rs 900 earnings per day, Rs 300 goes towards fuel," he told *TNSE*, adding that a number of customers in the morning hours are from hospitals and without any safety measures given to the delivery agents, they put themselves and their families at risk.

"The incomes of several employees have shrunk, as have the number of orders, with several IT employees working from home or heading to their hometowns," union convener Krishna K told *TNSE*.

Thousands of delivery agents have been working even during the pandemic because of their living conditions, the union added. In the previous lockdown, they had demanded the Centre for a package, yet this sector remained neglected, it said.

Delivery agents' demands

- Covid- 19 relief package
- Vaccination for food delivery partners and their family members on priority
- Sanitizer, mask and face shields
- Better pay-outs and incentive

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PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

On instructions from our clients, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Limited and Nandi Economic Corridor Enterprises Limited, having their registered offices at No.1, Midford House, Midford Gardens, off M.G. Road, Bangalore, we hereby notify that Mr. Manjunath Nayaker and Mr. Hanumant Raj, have ceased to be associated with our clients with effect from 13.05.2021 and consequently the said persons have no authority to represent or in any manner act for or on behalf of our clients before any person or authority. The public are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said persons in any matter relating to our clients or the Project known as the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project, which is presently under implementation by our clients.

KING & PARTRIDGE
ADVOCATES
No.48, LAVELLE ROAD, BANGALORE.
BANGALORE DATE: 30.05.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to purchase from Sri. SUNIL KUMAR S/o A.HAMSARAJ, RESIDENT AT NO.L2-05, 2ND FLOOR, SPENDID PLAZA, KORAMANGALA, BANGALORE-560 095. a Residential premises more particularly described in the schedule here under, the present owner has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the schedule property any person/s who claims any right ,title, interest of any nature in or any lien, charge, or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and /or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transactions should lodge such claims/s and or objections in writing to the undersigned to gather with supporting documents with in 15 days hereof failing which it could be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsists and my client would proceed to complete the transactions with the present owner therof. Subject to compliance with other legal and statutory formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that , Piece and Parcel of the Residential Premises No.19, Ramaswamy Extension (Earlier known as Ramaswamy Layout) (Old division No.36) situated at Lakkasandra,7th Main,16th Cross, PID NO. 63-5-19 now comes under the limits of BBMP ward No.146 (old ward No.63) measuring East To West 50 feet, and North To South 30 feet, Totally Ad measuring 1500 Sq. Feet, which Consists of 2500 Sq. Feet, Duplex Dwelling House of (Ground Floor and First Floor) and Second Floor RCC Roofed Structure thereon. And bounded on **East by:-** Payiwan Papaiah house, **West by:-** Main Road (Ramaswamy Layout Main Road) **North by:-** Private Property **South by:-** Sundaramma's Vacant Land, Know H.V.Shetty House.

P. DINESH NAYAK. B.A.L., LL.B., Advocate
No,33, 2ndcross 10th main, Arekempanahalli, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-560 027. Mob:93412 81026
E-Mail: dini_naik@yahoo.co.in
Date: 30.05.2021 - Place: Bengaluru

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from **M/s. SUBIN ENTERPRISES** represented by its Managing Partner and authorized signatory **Mr.V. D. JOSEPH.**

Any person having any objection regarding the said sale transaction, may contact the undersigned advocate with relevant documents within 15 days from the date of this publication failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and my client will complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Eastern portion of Residential vacant **Site No.48,** Khatha No.506/1/99/48/274, (Old Khatha No.163, carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.99, vide its official memorandum No.BDS/ALN (E. B) SR 132/2007-08, dated 03-10-2008 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Dist) Situated at DODDAGUBBI Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, now comes under the limits of Dodda Gubbi Grama Panchayath, Bangalore, measuring East to West 87 Feet and North to South 59 Feet, totally measuring 5133 Sq.ft, and bounded on East by :30 Feet Road, West by: Remaining portion of same Site No.48, North by :30 Feet Road and South by : Site No.48/1.

Sd/- **K.R. Bharadwaj & Associates,**
Advocates,
No.32, 1st Floor, Sukh Sagar Cross Road, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main K.K. Halli, Bangalore -560084. Ph. 9844011141
E.mail : Krblawassociates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
& LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that, my client intending to purchase the schedule property from **Smt. Koka Krishna Kumari,** W/o Kishor N. Koka, R/at No.33, 'C' Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru-98 Who is the absolute owner in possession of the property mentioned below the schedule property. Any person/s, financial institution and statutory authorities who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in any lien, charge, or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and/or has any objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents ***within Seven days*** hereof, failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my client would proceed to complete the transactions with the present owner thereof. Further registered sale deed dated 25.6.1990, registered in Book No.1 as No.878/1990-91, Volume No.1639, pages 163-168, executed by Rama Rao Naidu in favour of Koka Krishna Kumari, **southern portion of property bearing No. 104, measuring East to West 30 ft** and **North to South 61.5 ft** has been lost, if any body found kindly contact to below shown number and address.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel in respect of BBMP property bearing old No. 103 & 104, New Municipal No. 75, Ward No. 46, PID No. 46-4-75, **measuring East to West 30 ft and North to South108 ft in all measuring 3240 Sq.ft,** with built up area of **10800 Sq.ft,** situated at 2nd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-18 bounded on:

East by: Muthaiah's House
West by: Muniyappa's House,
North by: 2nd Main Road,
South by: Conservancy.

Sd/-
D.K. Sriramappa, *Advocate,*
No. 2/1, 2nd Floor, Mouriya Mansion, K.G. Road old post office Building, 1st Cross, Gandhinagara, Bengaluru-560 009.
Mobile: 9845974439

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 11/21-22/SE/PHC/PKD. NABARD - CWSS to Agali and adjoining panchayaths - phase II. EMD : Rs. 100000. Tender fee : Rs. 8400. Last Date for submitting Tender : **14-06-2021 03:00:pm**. Phone : 04912544927. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.**

Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-145-2021-22 PH Circle, Palakkad

शासकीय स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर मध्यप्रदेश

क्रमांक/ स्था/विज्ञप्त/2021/16257 ग्वालियर दिनांक 17.05.2021

विज्ञप्ति सूचना

- मध्यप्रदेश शासन, चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, मंत्रालय भोपाल के ज्ञाप क्रमांक **एफ2-06/2018/1/55 दिनांक 07.04.2018** द्वारा मध्यप्रदेश स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय चिकित्सीय सेवा आदर्श नियम 2018 एवं संचालक चिकित्सा शिक्षा म. प्र. भोपाल के पत्र क्रं. 453-55/स्था/अराज/2019 भोपाल **दिनांक 02.05.2019** के अंतर्गत स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर के अधीन वायरल रिसर्च एवं डायग्नोस्टिक लेब (VRDL) के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति सीधी भर्ती द्वारा की जाना है। इस हेतु इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी विज्ञप्ति क्रं. 25659 दिनांक 22.06.2020 को निरस्त कर नवीन विज्ञप्ति जारी कर अर्हताधारी योग्य अभ्यर्थियों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में आवेदन पत्र स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय में **दिनांक 31.05.2021 सायंकाल 5.30 बजे तक** आमंत्रित किये जाते है। उपरोक्त विज्ञापन की जानकारी एवं आवेदन पत्र का निर्धारित प्रारूप स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर मध्यप्रदेश की वेबसाइट **www.grmcgwalior.org** पर उपलब्ध है।
- आवेदन पत्र डाक द्वारा अथवा व्यक्तिगत रूप से स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर में जमा कराये जा सकते हैं। किसी भी स्थिती में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा।
- साक्षात्कार का दिनांक एवं साक्षात्कार हेतु पात्र उम्मीदवारों की सूची महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी, तथा ई-मेल द्वारा भी सूचित किया जायेगा।

मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी
जी-12850/21 स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ग्वालियर

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **M/s.RR and Company,** A registered Partnership firm having its Office at No.86/3, Coles Road, Fraser Town, Bangalore : 560 005, represented by its Partner **Mrs.Naseem Rasheed,** wife of Late C.R.Abdul Rasheed, have entered into a Registered Agreement to Sell dated 11.06.2020 to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder from its owners **1) Mr.P.D.Desa Muthu @ Desamuthu,** Son of Late P.Ponnurangam, **2) Mr.D.Raj Kumar,** Son of Late T.Dhanaraj and **3) Mr.B.Manohar,** Son of Late T.Balakrishnan, all residing at No.7, `A' Type, Robertson Road, Fraser Town, Bangalore : 560 005.

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien and interest in respect of the Schedule property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned with documentary evidence in support thereof within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claims of all such person/s shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client will proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land together with the structures standing thereon bearing **Municipal Corporation No.7, PID No.91-97-7,** situated at **`A` Type, Robertson Road,** Fraser Town, Corporation New Ward No.78, Old Ward No.91, Bangalore and bounded on the:

EAST BY : Property bearing No.8;
WEST BY : Property bearing No.6;
NORTH BY : School Compound;
SOUTH BY : Robertson Road;

and measuring :
EAST to WEST : 40 feet;
NORTH to SOUTH : 60 feet;
Totally measuring in all 2400 Square feet;

NISSAR AHMED, Advocate
No.10, Millers Road, Benson Town, Bangalore : 560 046.
Dated : 30.05.2021 Place : Bangalore

QuoteExpress DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING › SAM LEVENSON

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

COVID-19

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

20,628 CASES REPORTED TODAY

22,823 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY 25,67,449

YESTERDAY 25,46,821

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
492	401

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
52,253	52,253

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
3,50,066	3,72,373

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY 8.71%

YESTERDAY 8.68%

The day positivity rate — **14.95%** today — is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of **100** tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY 1.10%

YESTERDAY 1.09%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY 85.26%

YESTERDAY 84.28%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until May 29, 2021, a total of 25,67,449 cases have been reported in 1 year and 79 days...

1,32,78,089 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	27,16,334
Health care workers 1st dose	7,16,625
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,70,629
Frontline workers 1st dose	6,02,712
Frontline workers 2nd dose	2,09,688
Age 18-45 1st dose	8,58,896
Above 45 1st dose	83,83,522
Above 45 2nd dose	20,36,017

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

4,889 BENGALURU URBAN

557 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalakot: **166**	Chamarajanagar: **365**	Dakshina Kannada: **923**	Hassan: **1,024**	Kolar: **684**	Raichur: **340**	Udupi: **684**
Ballari: **671**	Chikkballapur: **434**	Davanagere: **449**	Haveri: **194**	Koppal: **350**	Ramanagara: **181**	Uttara Kannada: **536**
Belagavi: **1,027**	Chikkamagaluru: **843**	Dharwad: **519**	Kalaburagi: **107**	Mandya: **453**	Shivamogga: **672**	Vijayapura: **210**
Bidar: **42**	Chitradurga: **763**	Gadag: **307**	Kodagu: **333**	Mysuru: **1,720**	Tumakuru: **1,102**	Yadgir: **83**

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'WE NEED TO GIVE ATTENTION TO CHILDREN RIGHT NOW'

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

Children are expected to be especially at risk of Covid-19 infection during the third wave. While there is an immediate need to update data on this particular population to know how and to what extent we need to prepare in terms of health infrastructure, **Dr Asha Benakappa**, Head of the Department of Paediatrics, Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute of Medical Education and Research speaks on symptoms to watch out for, where we went wrong and why more children are getting infected during the second wave.

Do you agree with the assessment that the third wave will hit children?
I agree that a high number of children will be affected. But we don't have to wait till the third wave. We are already seeing an increase in such cases. As per the data from the state war room, 74,898 children aged between 0-9 years have tested positive and 1,88,439 are children in the 10-19 years age group. The proportion of children affected by Covid-19 was 4% (in India) for children below 14 years during the first wave. Now, it is between 10-14%. These numbers tell us that this particular population needs attention and it should start NOW.

Why are more children testing positive for Covid-19 during the second wave? Is it the new variant?
I don't really think it is the variant. Infection pool is high. Mutations keep happening. Each mutant is aggressive, contagious and has the capacity to bypass vaccine immunity. The earlier theory that children do not have many ACE2 receptors does not explain the infection in newborns and deaths in very young children. Now, science believes that there must be alternate receptors for virus entry. The complacency on the part of parents during the lull after the second wave became the problem for children.

Did the numbers surprise you? Or was this expected?
No, we were expecting this. Firstly, children did not go to school. This means they did not get innocuous respiratory infections which normally occurs about six to eight times per year. It is these respiratory infections that help children develop the immunological system. There are many viruses which children get exposed to in a year. These infections took care of the immunological system. Now, with them staying indoors, this immature immunological system let the virus enter the body. The respiratory hygiene we followed made them more vulnerable and parents became the main source of infection. Also, some of their routine vaccinations have also stopped. We would give them live vaccines like measles, H1N1, etc and this has stopped. So, breaking the vaccine schedule, maternal and child health, family clusters, have made children very vulnerable.

NUMBERS MATTER

	NO. OF COVID-19 CASES	NO. OF COVID-19 DEATHS
0-9 YRS	74,898	57
10-19 YRS	1,88,439	74

Across K'taka as on May 28

What symptoms do children show? Is it different from adults?
Yes, they are different from adults. Most of the children are asymptomatic. However, during the first wave, we saw the same symptoms like cold, loss of smell, sore throat, chills, cough and fever in children too. But, during the second wave, we have seen that the symptoms are not limited to just the respiratory system. Children are showing gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms like loss of appetite, skin rashes, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Are children susceptible to 'long haul' or 'long Covid'?
In some countries where children were asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic, children have come with manifestation of breathlessness, increased heart rate, mental fogging, depression, etc, after a year or so. This is called a long Covid. But this is expected of any virus infection. Earlier, in polio, we used to hear from parents about their child losing sensitivity in a leg after a few years of polio. Covid-19 is a RNA virus. The mutated inactive virus stays in our body for many years. Earlier also, measles used to manifest six years later. In India, again there is no data to prove this.

Is there any particular post-Covid symptom in children which is showing up rampantly?
A dangerous and severe disease which can lead to death is MIS-C (multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children). Paediatricians should look for warning signs such as elevation of inflammatory markers, fast breathing, lethargy and seizures for early detection of MISC. Right now, there is no data for the state but, in India, over 1,000 cases have already been reported.

What precautions should be taken when a child tests Covid-19 positive?
We have a protocol. 1)Asymptomatic patients — Watch for further symptoms; 2) Symptomatic but mild — Treat cough, fever, etc; 3) Moderate —Supervised treatment and monitoring in a hospital set-up; 4) Severe and complications — In a paediatric intensive care setting. 5) MiS-c — To be treated in a super-speciality hospital. Treatment of this would be very expensive and the outcome, most often, is not good. There is no immunity-boosting medication for children. Give them healthy, nutritious and home-made food. Isolate/quarantine yourself if any symptoms occur and avoid family clusters. Children aged below 2 shouldn't wear masks, but face shields. Those aged above 2 should compulsorily mask up before stepping out.

Parents are anxious about getting their wards vaccinated. Do you advocate vaccines for young children?
I am not for it. Children are evolving body parts. Ours is all senescence. Instead, following Covid norms is the best. Vaccines can protect one for only a few months. It is better to wait and watch. Covid-19 is a disease of the social behaviour of humanity. Only social vaccine will help.

Is the state doing enough to protect our children?
No. We need to do more. There are too many challenges when it comes to this population. First of all, where is the data? The war room data has only the number of cases, deaths, discharges. But what we need is segregated data. We also don't know which are the paediatric hospitals, how many beds are available, Covid obstetrician care and NICUs have to be set up. When we talk of children, we automatically need to involve pregnant mothers too. It is important to know how many pregnant mothers have tested positive, and separate data for newborns, 0-6 years, 6-15 and 15-18 year-olds has to be made available. Not just cases, but also deaths and the cause should be listed in the war room figures. It is only if we have data we will know how many children might actually need ICU care. With the current data, only 1 per cent will need ICU care. But, we may be wrong. So first, let's fine-tune our statistics.Secondly, the state should issue clear guidelines to treat mild, moderate and severe cases. Thirdly, a good number of beds should be made available for children in various hospitals and other facilities should be ramped up. We should have paediatric ventilators in place and it needs expertise to handle them. We cannot set up Covid Care Centres exclusively for children and expect them to stay there without their mother. The CCCs should be like daycare centres. All these need to be thought about much ahead.

How long do you think kids will have to stay away from their friends, teachers, school?
At least for the next two years it will be difficult. If we vaccinate all the covirgins (those who are not vaccinated or got the infection) soon, especially the 18-45 population, then it might be a possibility of slowly allowing children to step out.

Multi-Inflammatory Syndrome in children a new cause for worry

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

WHILE the State is witnessing cases of mucormycosis, also called black fungus, that affects the adult population who have recovered from Covid-19, cases of Multi-Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a rare disease that affects children post-Covid, are also seeing an increase in Karnataka. Experts now want the State Government to pay attention to MIS-C, which, if not treated, could turn fatal.

"A few cases of MIS-C were reported in the State during the first wave. Generally, children suffer from this condition 5-6 weeks after recovering from Covid. The immunity level in children does not develop as quickly as it does in adults. Hence, this condition, which affects the heart in 90% of the cases, may pose a threat at a very alarming rate," Dr Srinivasa S, Chairman, National IMA Standing Committee for Child Health, said.

The increase in MIS-C cases is being significantly seen in private hospitals and many government hospitals across the state. Aster CMI Hospital alone, in the last 15 days, has seen 12 cases. According to virologist Dr V Ravi, another private hospital in Bengaluru has reported 15 cases in the second wave. Dr Srinivasa says there have been reports of MIS-C from districts too. "Not just us, many hospitals in the city are reporting MIS-C cases. It is also being seen in Tier-2 cities in the state. As Covid-19 cases are on the rise in the city, MIS-C cases are also likely to increase, as this disease is an immune phenomenon related to Covid," said Dr Sagar Bhattad, Consultant, Paediatric Immunology & Rheumatology, Aster CMI Hospital.

MIS-C is an immune-mediated disease secondary to Covid-19. It does not spread unless the child is Covid-positive. If treated in time, the fatality is less than 2%. Though most children with MIS-C are Covid-PCR negative and antibody-positive and hence, are non-infectious, doctors say that the biggest risk with MIS-C is the speed with which the condition of the patient deteriorates.

MIS-C SYMPTOMS

- Fever that lasts for more than 24 hrs
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Pain in abdomen
- Rashes
- Feeling unusually tired
- Faster heartbeat
- Rapid breathing

"Initial symptoms are fever and reddish rashes all over the body. These rashes are not itchy, so that is an indication the allergy is not the cause for the rashes... Also, there is red eye and severe pain in abdomen," explained Dr Sagar.

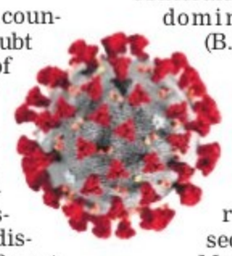
Doctors said that if symptoms occur and the child has suffered from cold and cough a month ago or may have been exposed to Covid, they must seek medical attention. They should also look for dropping pulse rate and blood pressure along with earlier mentioned symptoms.

Meanwhile, Dr Ravi said with the third wave expected to affect children more and with rise in MIS-C cases, the state needs to be prepared in terms of ICU care and trained doctors to treat this condition. "Early diagnosis is key and people should be made aware of the symptoms so that casualties due to late hospitalisation can be avoided," he said.

Curb religious events, rallies for a year to stem 3rd wave: Expert

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA needs to live without elections, rallies and religious events for one more year to prevent a third wave of Covid-19 in the state, warned Dr V Ravi, renowned virologist, Nodal Officer for Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 and also member of Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19. He was speaking at a webinar organised by the Karnataka Women Journalist's Association (KWJA).



Warning that the country should have no doubt about the coming of the third and multiple such waves, he said the government needs to be prepared, not just at the state-level, but also at district-level, as each district will peak at different times.

Children and those adults who are not infected till now will be vulnerable in the next wave, he warned.

"The new committee to tackle this wave is working at the ground level. But the State Government should ensure that there are enough trained paediatricians. We don't have many in the state. Also, NICUs, paediatric Covid care centres should be set up in every taluk. Some of the dangerous diseases like MIS-C should be taken care of," he said.

Speaking about variants of concerns, he said that there are all possibilities that new variants will occur and one has to be prepared, assuming that the new variants will come.

The genome sequencing of Covid virus in circulation in Karnataka in the second wave since March has revealed that the double mutant, which was first found in Maharashtra (B.1.617), has taken over even the UK variant (B.1.1.7) and these two have virtually obliterated the previous strain dominant in the state (B.1.36.29).

He said India will add 17 new laboratories to the Indian Sars-COV-2 Genomics Consortium (Insacog) network to ramp up genome sequencing.

Meanwhile, he also said that those who are already infected with Covid- 19 should wait for three months before taking the vaccine as the person will have natural antibodies. However, both doses of the vaccine must be taken after recovering from Covid-19, he said.

He added that all the vaccines available in the country are safe and more importantly, people should follow "social vaccine" which is right masking, social distancing and staying hygenic.

> **The new committee to tackle this wave is working at the ground level. But the State Government should ensure that there are enough trained paediatricians**
>
> Dr V Ravi, renowned virologist, Nodal Officer for Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 and also member of Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19

TOUGH TIME

Pregnant doc complains of high-handedness by Mandya cops

ENS @Mandya

While health workers across the country are increasingly facing hostilities amid the pandemic, a pregnant doctor working at the Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences had to go through a harrowing time at the hands of police.

The doctor, who narrated her ordeal on social media, said the autorickshaw that she regularly commutes in, was confiscated by the police and, despite her appeals, the police refused to budge. The post has now gone viral with condemnation pouring in from various quarters.

According to the social media account shared by her colleague, the doctor, who is five months pregnant, depends on a local auto driver to ferry her to the hospital. On Wednesday morning, when the district was under total lockdown, the auto was confiscated by the police when he was returning after dropping her off at the hospital. On learning about this, the doctor appealed to the officials concerned to release the auto, but in vain. Despite her pleas, the police refused to release the vehicle and instead, behaved in a rude manner, blaming her for depending on the auto. the post read.

Later, after the intervention of a local politician, the personnel at the police station spoke to their higher-ups and agreed to release the vehicle, but not before making her wait from 9.30 pm till 11 pm for the vehicle.

Calls to the jurisdictional Mandya Rural police station went unanswered.

Karnataka adds 20,628 fresh Covid cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA reported 20,628 new Covid-19 cases and 492 deaths on Saturday. With this, the state's tally rose to 25,67,449 and the death toll climbed to 28,298, a bulletin from the state government read.

The state reported 21,794 new cases on April 20 and since then cases have skyrocketed, even touching 50,112 on May 5. However, fatalities continue to remain high with 492 people succumbing to the virus on Friday.

Meanwhile, active caseload further fell to 3,50,066 cases from the 3,72,373 reported previously on Friday.

Bar Council gives ₹1cr assistance to lawyers infected with Covid-19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Bar Council (KSBC) has extended the financial assistance to the tune of Rs 1.06 crore to 733 lawyers infected with Covid-19 in the state. KSBC has sanctioned Rs 10,000 each to lawyers who are in home quarantine and Rs 25,000 each to advocates who are hospitalised in the second wave of Covid-19.

According to Bar Council Chairman L Srinivasa Babu, Rs 10,000 each has been sanctioned to 513 lawyers and Rs 25,000 each to 220 lawyers. Babu said that KSBC sanctioned the financial assistance in two phases. In the first phase, it had sanctioned Rs 54.15 lakh -- Rs 10,000 each to 289 lawyers and Rs 25,000 each to 101 lawyers. In the second batch, it has sanctioned Rs 52.15 lakh -- Rs 10,000 each to 224 lawyers and Rs 25,000 each to 119 lawyers, he said. KSBC has appealed to Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa to sanction Rs 25 crore for advocates who are in financial distress due to lockdown.

In a letter addressed to the CM, Babu stated that there are more than 1.10 lakh advocates in the state and they are facing severe financial crisis for the last one year owing to the Covid-19 lockdown, he said. He also said more than 200 advocates have lost their lives to Covid in the state during the second wave.

AAB seeks relief package

In a letter addressed to the CM, Advocates Association of Bangalore president AP Ranganath said that the government should treat advocates as frontline workers and announce a compensation of Rs 30 lakh to each family of advocates who have succumbed to Covid and announce a package.

The Narcotics Wing of the CCB on Saturday arrested a gang of six drug peddlers, including a Nigerian, who were sourcing synthetic drugs via the internet and peddling the same in the city. Police recovered `35 lakh worth of MDMA pills, LSD strips, and marijuana from them

THIS PANDEMIC HAS STUDENT COMMUNITY IN ITS CROSSHAIRS

TEAM TNIE

The pandemic has not just claimed 28,298 lives, infected almost 25.67 lakh people and stretched the health infrastructure to its limit across Karnataka, but it is threatening the very wellbeing and future of the most crucial segment of society – the students. They are struggling physically and mentally in the hope of securing a robust future and contributing to society.

But the foundation to that pursuit and hope – education itself – is in a huge mess. This has set levels of anxiety and stress among students unprecedentedly high.

While the pandemic is justifiably blamed for it, the lack of anticipation, decision-making and adequate preparedness on the part of the government has compounded the situation to a large extent. The rearrangement of academic curricula, exam postponement/ cancellation and changes in evaluation mechanisms has pushed every student to the brink – and, unfortunately, some even over it.

Take the case of 21-year-old Niharika Rao (name changed), a final-year Commerce student in Bengaluru. She is the daughter of a bank clerk, nursing an ambition to become an accomplished chartered accountant "to boost her family income and status". She was known to friends and relatives as a cheerful girl with a lot of positive attitude. After classes went online and a few days in offline mode in January-March, she started showing symptoms and was diagnosed with clinical acute depression. On two occasions, she has tried to end her life. Her friends say she was increasingly anxious about her future amid the "obstructed" classes and worried over her plans to become a chartered accountant.

In March-April, she started withdrawing into a shell, turning irritable and even hostile at times, and started losing concentration. Though she follows her courses online, she does not involve actively in class discussions like before. She is now under regular counselling and medication.

But a large majority of such students lack access to counselling facilities and many remain undiagnosed.

The psychologically better off are compromising their ambitions and goals. "Many are looking at jobs, putting aside their interests and capabilities," says a senior career counsellor, requesting anonymity.

Those aiming to study abroad are suffering anxieties over repeated waves of the pandemic and the impact on their studies.

"I want to pursue my MS degree at a prestigious foreign university. But with the change in the academic year, I fear I may not make it. I wonder whether I should wait for a year or two to accomplish my dream," says Kaushik R, a final-year BE student in Mysuru.

Raghu Rao, a final-year civil engineering student in Shivamogga, says, "Ours is an unfortunate batch. We have no experience of doing on-site projects to understand job intricacies. We even lost out on campus recruitments this year."

Also, as evaluation mechanisms have changed and many are being passed with their internal assessment or average marks, students fear that they would be denied higher education or jobs.

Impact on personality

Experts say students across segments are affected by this mess.

BIG PICTURE

Shivraj Pujar, a Class 9 CBSE student in Ballari, says that with online classes, it is difficult to understand the lessons, particularly maths and science. He is under pressure at home because of this, adding to his stress.

Counsellor Dr Sandhya Kaveri at Shivamogga says students, particularly from classes 6 to 12 (PUII), go through a period of "disciplined development", which is missing now. This may affect their personality development impacting later stages of their lives. "One issue in this age group is psychological weaning with emotions, which further makes an impact on development of social quotient (determines performance in relation to age) and emotional quotient (determines ability to understand, use and manage emotions towards others). As students in this age group are missing two years of socialising in schools and campuses many are exhibiting deviant behaviour. For parents, this is a major problem to handle at home," she says.

Dr Satish Kumar, Consultant - Clinical Psychologist, Manipal Hospitals, Bengaluru, says, "It is difficult to make students of class 6-9 understand concepts. When a student misses a topic during an online class, she/he cannot retrieve it as the class continues. I have heard high school students complain about this. There is a lack of human interaction in online classes. Many cannot understand the lessons and this affects their performance. This in turn leads to parents pressuring them, which cascades into parents-children conflicts as they think children are not focusing. But children are struggling to get the topics taught through online classes."

He says also, students in classes 10 and 12 are confused about choosing their next college. "Children are dealing with insecurities. There is no career guidance available."

Indecisive Steps

Those appearing for boards and competitive exams too are facing stress and anxiety, with postponements adding to their woes. The Central Board of Secondary Examinations (CBSE) has decided to hold Class 12 exams over July-August, and the Karnataka PU Board has decided to hold it in July, trying to complete them before the CBSE exams. The State board has also appealed that competitive exams to professional courses be held after the CBSE exams get over in August. Now there is a debate whether to hold PU II exams online or offline. If held online, a large number of rural students will be put in a difficult situation as many don't have access to online tools. If offline, students would be exposed Covid. The issue has landed the State Government in a Catch 22 situation.

The CBSE and Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) have cancelled Class 10 examinations, but the State Government is yet to take a decision on Class 10 Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams.

Realistic approach

"We need to have a realistic approach to the examination issue," says educationist Niranjanaradhya VP. "Last academic year (2019-20), the pandemic hit the fag end of it. By then, students had uniform learning and preparatory exams were completed. The offline classes held from January to March were not conceptually clear as teachers taught in a rush."

He says the government needs innovative solutions to this unprecedented situation. He suggests restructuring the Class 12 syllabus into a three-month bridge course to cope with degree courses and holding exams at college level right now. "Teachers are the best judges of the amount of board syllabus completed and hence college level examinations are more effective in case exams are a must," he says.

"Conducting exams is not only about physical safety, but also the mental health of students. This wave has hit almost every family and it's unreasonable to conduct exams in such stressful times," says Ameena Baig, General Secretary, Bangalore Students Community.

Inputs from: Pearl Maria D'Souza; Ranjani Madhavan; Iffath Fathima; Kiran Balannanavar; Arunkumar Huralimath; Karthik KK; Ramachandra V Gunari; Prajna GR; Ramakrishna Badseshi; Devaraj Hirehalli; Raghu Koppar; and Tushar Majukar

These are challenging times for students. They need healthy coping mechanisms to handle uncertainties. They need to be encouraged to adopt positive strategies, like exercising and journaling (written records of thoughts and feelings). They must be encouraged to protect themselves from unwholesome coping mechanisms which lead to addictions and unhealthy habits

Apoorva Deshpande, Paediatric Psychologist, Aster CMI Hospital

Exams are a part of our life, but we cannot make it our entire life. In an exam, the mental health of students is not taken into consideration whether offline or online. Even if exams are held online, a lot of students face personal problems which are not talked about. In a pandemic, it gets worse with the added anxiety and stress

Yahaan Heerjee, St Joseph's Law College, Student Ambassador

As stress and anxiety persists, there is a lack of interest and enthusiasm in life and goals. Many students go into depression and/or attempt suicide as well. We really need to focus on the mental health of children and help them cope through proper guidance or ease their pressure academically. When even adults are feeling the heat, just imagine what a student is going through

Tejas Kolekar, Personal Coach, Educator And Counsellor

Gangrape survivor traced to Kerala, brought to B'luru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Ramamurthy Nagar police, who are probing the recent shocking gangrape case, have recorded the survivor's statement and took her for a medical examination on Saturday.

Speaking to *TNIE*, a police officer said that the survivor was traced to Kerala on Friday and was brought to the city. Her statement was video-recorded. She will record her statement before a magistrate under Section 164 of CrPC as part of the investigation.

She was taken to a hospital for medical tests after she gave her statement.

The four men arrested earlier for allegedly sexually abusing her were also subjected to medical tests, the police officer added. In her statement, the survivor said that she had come to the city six months ago from Bangladesh and was employed in a beauty parlour. She had also worked in Dubai much earlier.

"She told us that she was sexually abused a week ago while the accused claim that it was 10 days ago. We are investigating the case and trying to find out why she left the city without informing anyone about the incident," the police officer said.

7 cops to face trial for detaining man illegally 10 yrs ago: K'taka HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court declined to quash the criminal proceedings against seven police officials, including a DySP, in relation to a case registered for alleged misuse of power and high-handedness a decade ago, with regard to the illegal detention of an innocent person and subjecting him to physical torture in Chikkaballapur district.

Justice HP Sandesh rejected the petition filed by DySP S Shivakumar, CID, Bengaluru; Inspector Munireddy, Mico Layout Station; Head Constables Balaji Singh, Nadhi Police Station, Anand, Gudibande Police Station, T Venkatesh, Town Police Station, and Muniyappa (retired); and Mohan, Driver, District Armed Reserve Police, Chikkaballapur district.

The accused officials are facing criminal proceedings initiated by M Janardhan (66) from Heggadahalli, Doddaballapur taluk, for allegedly taking his son into custody illegally for two days and physically torturing him, in connection with a chain-snatching case registered by them in May 2010, when they were posted at the Doddaballapur station.

Justice Sandesh said that Janardhan's son was not identified by the complainant, and that he had not been arraigned in the case subsequent to the investigation, but he was in illegal custody of the petitioners, who subjected him to physical torture.

"When an innocent person having no criminal antecedents was taken to the police station without arrest, kept in custody illegally and subjected to torture, the act of the police cannot be termed as an act in connection with the discharge of public duty. It is nothing but the misuse of power vested with the police officials," the judge noted.

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We invite separate sealed **TWO PART TENDER** in the prescribed form by the under signed from the registered contractors in appropriate class in **PWD / Highways / other Government Departments / Undertakings.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender document (inclusive of GST)	Period of Completion
1	Construction of **Milk Processing and Product manufacturing Dairy** in Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Live stock and Animal Science (AIIRLIVAS) at Thalaivasal Koot Road in Salem District	Rs. 17,43,000/-	Rs. 1,180/-	12 Months
2	Construction of **Cross Bred Dairy Cattle Unit** in Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Live stock and Animal science (AIIRLIVAS) at Thalaivasal Koot Road in Salem District.	Rs. 13,20,000/-	Rs. 1,180/-	12 Months
3	Construction of **Cattle Feed and Mineral Mixture Manufacturing unit** in Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Live stock and Animal science (AIIRLIVAS) at Thalaivasal Koot Road in Salem District.	Rs. 8,37,000/-	Rs. 1,180/-	12 Months

Sale of Document :
31.05.2021 to 28.06.2021 on all working days between **11.00 AM and 03.00 PM.** By post each **Rs. 100/-** extra. Download the document in **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** at free of cost. Tender document will also be available for **e-submission** on website **www.tntenders.gov.in** and the bidders can also participate in the tender through online.

Pre - Bid Meeting	**In the tender meeting hall 3rd floor of Aavin Illam, Nandanam. 10.06.2021 at 03.00 PM**
Submission of tenders	**29.06.2021 Upto 03.15 PM**
Opening of tender (Technical bid)	**29.06.2021 at 05.00 PM**

DIPR/ 1647 /TENDER/ 2021 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.NLBC Division, Rodalabanda-584127 Tq.Lingasugur Dist.Raichur, email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2021-22/271 Date : 20.5.2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-tendering only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NLBC Division, Rodalabanda invites percentage tenders in two cover system from eligible Class.I Civil KPWD & KBJNL Category-III & above registered Contractors, for the work of Construction of Pickup across Sy.No.147/2 Nala Ganadinni village in Manvi Taluk (Work Indent No.20531) as detailed in the short term Tender Notification published in e-procurement portal viz http// eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The Intending tenderers may download the tender document through e-procurement portal viz., http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in.from 24.05.2021. The technical bid will be opened on 07.06.2021 @ 11.00 AM.

Further details can be obtained from this office in any working days during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIP/Raichur/65/MC&A/2021-22 KBJNL NLBC Division, Rodalbanda

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S. No	Name of the posts	Group	Pay level (as per 7th CPC)	Mode of recruitment	Vertical Reservation					Horizontal Reservation	Total No. of posts
					UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	PWD	
1	**Registrar**	A	Level 14	Contract/ Deputation	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
2	**Librarian**	A	Level 14	Direct Recruitment/ Deputation	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
3	**Superintending Engineer**	A	Level 13	Direct Recruitment/ Deputation	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
4	**Deputy Registrar**	A	Level 12	Direct Recruitment	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
5	**Scientific Officer**	A	Level 10	Direct Recruitment	00	00	00	01**	00	00	01
6	**Junior Superintendent**	B	Level 06	Direct Recruitment	01	00	00	00	00	01**	01

**BACKLOG VACANCIES
Commencement of online application will be from **09:00 A.M. of May 31, 2021.** Online application may be submitted till **05:30 P.M. of June 21, 2021.** Last date for receipt of hard copy of online submitted application form along with all supporting documents is upto **05.30 P.M. of July 20, 2021.** For full text of the advertisement please visit: **https://www.iiserbpr.ac.in/index.php?category=staff-positions&pid=staff-positions**

Sd/-
सहायक कुलसचिव (प्रशासन)
Assistant Registrar (Admin)

EXPRESS READ

Lakshadweep restricts entry, tightens security cover

Kochi: With political parties and human rights organisations planning to send delegations to the island to study the new reforms proposed by the administrator, the Lakshadweep administration has introduced stringent restrictions on allowing visitors. The Lakshadweep Development Corporation has also issued an order tightening the security coverage citing 'intelligence inputs. Meanwhile the political parties organised a meeting which formed Save Lakshadweep Forum to coordinate the protests and to explore the legal options to launch a united agitation against the policy changes.

Lyricist Vairamuthu returns award amid controversy

T'Puram: With the ONV Cultural Academy deciding to re-examine its decision to give the ONV Literary Award to Tamil lyricist and poet, he has said that he is returning the award. In a video released on his channel, Vairamuthu aired his concern about the jury being pushed into making such a decision and said that he will be returning the prize which is instituted in memory of Malayalam poet late ONV Kurup. "I don't wish to receive the award in the midst of these controversies. I would like to request that the cash prize of Rs 3 lakh be given to the Kerala Chief Minister's Relief Fund," he said.

Don't panic over reports of teachers' demotions: Suresh Kumar

Bengaluru: Clarifying about reports in a section of the media regarding the demotion of 8,000 teachers, Primary and Secondary Education S Suresh Kumar on Saturday said that the department will analyse the technicalities and file an appeal against the judgment. The minister said the demotion would not apply to all 8,000 teachers of Classes 1 to 5. "Besides, it is not applicable to teachers of Classes 6 to 8, hence they need not panic," he said.

शासकीय स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर मध्यप्रदेश
कमांक 16253/ स्था/विज्ञप्त/2021 ग्वालियर दिनांक 17.05.2021

विज्ञप्ति सूचना

- मध्यप्रदेश शासन, चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, मंत्रालय भोपाल दिनांक 16/07/2018 द्वारा तथा संचालनालय चिकित्सा शिक्षा मध्यप्रदेश, संयुक्त संचालक वित्त के पत्र क्रमांक 3483/ स्था/ राज/2018 दिनांक 08.08.2018 के परिपालन में सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल चिकित्सा शिक्षक आदर्श सेवा नियम 2018 के अंतर्गत स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर के अधीन सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल सुपर स्पेशलिटी विभागों में प्राध्यापक/ सह प्राध्यापक/ सहायक प्राध्यापक के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति सीधी भर्ती द्वारा की जाना है। इस कार्यालय की विज्ञप्ति क्रमांक 12112 दिनांक 16.03.2020 जो संशोधित विज्ञप्ति क. 25661 दिनांक 22.06.2020 को निरस्त कर इस हेतु एमसीआई अर्हता अनुसार योग्य उम्मीदवारों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में आवेदन पत्र स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर में दिनांक 31/5/2021 सायंकाल 5:30 बजे तक आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। उपरोक्त विज्ञापन की जानकारी एवं आवेदन पत्र का निर्धारित प्रारूप स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर मध्यप्रदेश की वेबसाइट www.grmcgwalior.org पर उपलब्ध है।
- आवेदन पत्र डाक द्वारा अथवा व्यक्तिगत रूप से स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्वालियर में जमा कराये जा सकते हैं। किसी भी स्थिती में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा।
- साक्षात्कार का दिनांक एवं साक्षात्कार हेतु पात्र उम्मीदवारों की सूची महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी, तथा ई–मेल द्वारा भी सूचित किया जायेगा।

मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी
जी-12853/21 स्वशासी गजराराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ग्वालियर

"I wanted to connect my guitar to human emotions" BB King

RBI MESSAGE T0 RAISINA HILL. SPEND!

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

UDAY Kotak is normally not given to rash hyperbole. This week, the chief of Kotak Bank and president of the CII, set the cat among the faint hearted by advocating printing of notes by the RBI to stimulate the economy. The Keynesian approach was set in Keynesian articulation. "Words," John Maynard Keynes famously said, "ought to be a little wild, for they are the assault of thoughts upon the unthinking."

Circumstance is often an eloquent expression of the imperative for action. Perceived potential of double-digit growth has yielded to a veiled sense of foreboding. The extension of lockdowns has triggered despondency. The despair of the living about livelihood is palpable, particularly among those in the lower income tiers.

On Thursday, the RBI released its annual essay. In classic textbook approach, the central message was not in the theme song but in a highlighted box. The opening sentence wrapped in academic verbiage stated: "For a self-sustaining GDP growth trajectory post-COVID-19, a durable revival in private consumption and investment demand together would be critical as they account for around 85 per cent of GDP."

Keynes may well be the unseen presence but central bankers rarely leverage their privilege to explicitly state the obvious. The chosen code is implicit messaging. Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, whose signature style is understated expression, adheres by the rule of shunning rhetoric.

The message in the algebraic flow of the equation though is vividly clear. Falling incomes impact consumption, lower consumption will retard/retrench investment and growth will suffer without the duet of consumption and investment. The focus of state finance ministers on dents in collections at the GST Council meeting, highlights the cause for concern. The weekly data released by the RBI has definitive indicators of the level of distress. Credit to business, described as non-food credit, grew by barely 5.7 per cent in 2020-21 and has barely moved since. The retrenchment of demand has much to do with the uncertainty of income generation. Faced with lack of funds, small and medium enterprises plan to shed jobs and curtail output and, banks, unsurprisingly, have sought moratorium and extension of restructuring for borrowers.

The timing of RBI's report is noteworthy – coming as it does following the transfer of the bonanza of ₹99,000 crore to the government, in the run-up to the release of the GDP growth data this week and before the June 4 bi-monthly monetary policy meeting. In its 83-page assessment of the economy, the RBI has cited data and recited verse to point out all that it has done to prop up growth and the economy – the accommodative stance, the market interventions, the moratorium on repayments, the subsidising of forward cover, and the management of exchange rates to shield trade and more.

The RBI has signalled that monetary policy is approaching the boundary of limitations. Already, the ugly head of inflation is raising its head – thanks in part to rising input prices, supply chain disruptions and fuel prices aggravated by taxation. And then, there is the 'what will happen to US inflation and interest rates' conundrum. The challenge of a possible taper tantrum has implications for flows into the debt and equity markets, for inflation, interest rates and the value of the rupee per dollar.

Ergo the RBI chose to tell Raisina Hill to read the lips – i.e. spend! Even if it is couched in verbose paragraphs, the message essentially is that the ball is now in the forecourt of the government. Indeed, through instructive data it has presented the scope for fiscal policy intervention – for instance, India is 14th among G20 nations trailing Brazil, Korea, South Africa in fiscal support measures and is 10th in the measure of gross debt to GDP ratio.

The good news is that exports, buoyed by global demand, is up and the organised sector has so far managed to work with the Covid appropriate protocol to keep production going. The question, therefore, comes back to falling demand in the domestic economy – and this is validated by 'uncertainty' factor expressed in forward guidance issued by companies.

On Friday, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended the umbrella provisions of pandemic management till the end of June. States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and others have already indicated intent to restrict economic engagement. Arguably, the expectation of economic normalcy is now pushed beyond the April-June quarter. And, there is yet the spectre of the third wave to reckon with.

The case for intervention to protect incomes and prevent individual and institutional scarring across the economy is indisputable. There is no dearth of ideas and literature on what needs to be done – whether it is cash transfers as was done during the first wave, enhanced allocation for rural employment.

Yes, there is the fear of the impact of rising government expenditure on the monetary conditions and on fiscal deficit. This calls for out of the box measures in expenditure management as also monetisation of public assets to fund revival and sustain growth. It is instructive to remember that given the shock that the second wave has delivered across geographies, the cost of not doing anything will possibly be greater than the cost of doing something.

MODI-SHAH BLUNDER OVER LAKSHADWEEP

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

OUR leaders have a special talent to turn peaceful landscapes into war zones. Remember how, one fine morning, Jammu & Kashmir was divided into two Union territories. As if on signal, Mukesh Ambani formed a task force and said "you'll see several steps for J&K, Ladakh soon."

We are about to see several steps for Lakshadweep soon. As per tradition, Lakshadweep's administrator was a bureaucrat from the IAS/IPS ranks. When Dineshwar Sharma, who was chief of the Intelligence Bureau before he took over as Administrator of Lakshadweep, died in December 2020, the Government of India broke tradition and appointed a friendly politico. (Friendly to the Government, that is.) He lost no time in turning things upside down. Even to send a sick person to a hospital in the mainland, his approval became necessary.

That came naturally to Praful Khoda Patel because the plus point in his favour was that his father was an RSS leader. Patel served as Gujarat's Home Minister under Modi. His political career ended when he failed to get elected in 2012. Modi gave him a new life by appointing him Administrator of Dadra and Haveli.

All the psychological complexes he developed as a failed politician now came to haunt Lakshadweepians. Perhaps, the RSS soul in him could not reconcile with the fact that the entire population of Lakshadweep was Muslim. Three per cent were listed as non-Muslim, but these were not locals; they were itinerant traders from the mainland. Patel must have resented this. With his experience confined to putting administrative power to political use, Patel acted like a local dictator. Some 200 high school teachers were dismissed because they were on contract. Students who protested were disciplined with lathis. As many as 190 people were dismissed from the tourism department. Subdivisional magistrates in various islands were also dismissed. Hindi-speaking officers from North India were put in charge, knowing that locals knew only their native dialects and Malayalam.

The zilla panchayat was made virtually powerless, with the Administrator assuming all responsibilities. In the name of coastal protection laws, the fishing community's nets and sheds were taken away. Two functioning dairy farms were closed, saying that they were running at a loss. Orders were issued to sell off the cattle at the rate of ₹250 per kilo. Milk arrived by ship from Gujarat.

Traditionally, Lakshadweep's trading activities were conducted through Beypore Port in Kozhikode district. The new dispensation put an end to the practice and ordered that Mangalore Port be used instead. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said bluntly that Lakshadweep had strong and age-old links with Kerala in education, employment, medical services and trade and that secretive attempts to break this were underway. CPM state secretary A Vijayaraghavan put it in stronger terms. The Government was interfering, he said, even in the food habits of the locals. He saw Delhi's policies as an attempt convert Lakshadweep into an experimental ground of Hindutva politics. Even the BJP unit in Lakshadweep joined the chorus of protestors.

Even the best efforts of a manipulator like Praful Patel will not find it easy to break Malayali cultural barricades. That won't bother him of course. In his home state itself, he is known as an operator who is not interested in what people think of him

The power of sentiment showed its worth in the words of Zabith, a resident of the islands. She said: "From the time of my great grandmother, we have been living in this house. If Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation comes into force, I will need their permission to live here for more than three years. Protests are not taking place because of Covid protocol."

If that was a personalised response to the situation that developed, a principle-based perspective was provided by CPM's A Vijayaraghavan. Noting that "the Government interferes even in food traditions (read, beef consumption) of local residents," he said: "What is happening is a dastardly attempt to convert Lakshadweep into an experimental ground for Hindutva Politics."

How far Hindutva politics can go when confronted by Malayali politics is unsure. It is a state where the BJP has failed to gain a foothold. Even the best efforts of a manipulator like Praful Patel will not find it easy to break Malayali cultural barricades. That won't bother him of course. In his home state itself, he is known as an operator who is not interested in what people think of him. He is trusted by Modi and Amit Shah, and that is all that matters to him.

This is actually a tragedy of Modi and Shah. They do not understand the grassroots feelings of people. Otherwise, they would have seen the importance of what Lakshadweep PCC president Hamdullah Sayeed said: "Those who have more than two children are disqualified from contesting panchayat elections. With this democracy has become meaningless."

So, for a great many people, has the Modi-Shah leadership.

FLY ON THE WALL ON WHAT GOES ON BEHIND WALLS

POWER & POLITICS

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SHUFFLE IN A BUBBLE

Will he, won't he? Prime Minister Narendra Modi isn't giving anything away. He is in no hurry to reshuffle his 60-member Council of Ministers. It has not stopped the hopefuls from promoting themselves, or using their idols or proxies to launch covert and overt ops to change the composition of the Modi Cabinet. Some woo religious and RSS heavy-hitters to drop a kind word on their behalf at the doorsteps of the right leaders. Since none except a couple of exceptions have direct access to the PM, digital and social media are their only option to tout their usefulness for Modi during the Covid crisis. It is almost two years since he has added new ministers. He has only replaced those who died or resigned. Over half a dozen ministers hold more than two-three portfolios. The cabinet expansion is stuck on the horizon of panting and ranting. This speculation started after mantris from the Shiv Sena and Akali Dal quit and Ram Vilas Paswan died. Scuttlebutt has gained currency because defectors from parties like the Congress and regional outfits are clamouring for berths. Modi's dilemma is to balance original Swayam Sewaks with longer Sangh Ayu (Date of joining the RSS) and turncoats whose only claim to fame is pedigree, degree, moolah might and muscle mass. Ministerial wannabes have hired picayune PR players to plant stories in their own godi media. A new band of social influencers have been roped in to tout names on Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp groups. These megaphones are TwittCelebs and excessively Zoomed in Facebook account holders with over a million followers. And the reason why Modi should change his tune and team now? He needs a new health minister because Dr Harsh Vardhan hasn't matched his billing. But the doctor is just a tool. Names of some disastrous spokespersons and defeated flop candidates are doing the rounds, but no current minister is being identified for the change-the-cabinet operation. The Modi Mood is an enigma. However, their inner astrologer says any date after June is auspicious. Modi defines both numerology and astrology. After all he is the Number One Star.

YOUTH BATTLES BULGE

Mainstream political parties are institutions that refuse to die. But their leaders buy the farm with the passage of time and relevance. Many regional outfits floated by caste/religious leaders have vanished after their individual-led ideology lost its vigour, vitality and makutu. National parties carry on because their new blood has old DNA, thanks to the active involvement of affiliated youth organisations. The Congress, which is gasping for ballot breath, has suddenly figured it needs young juju since the old 'uns are deep in malicious turf wars. It is for the first time that Youth Congress leaders are more visible than the dodderers in the marginalised parent party. Its 40-year-old president BV Srinivas has made the YC almost omnipresent by deploying his youth brigade to respond to each and every call from any Covid-critical family, sending succour in the form of oximeters to life-saving drugs to every city from Bathinda to Bengaluru. Srinivas and team have dominated the digital media debate and are regular TV talking heads of late. For the first time, the lazy juniors have gained the confidence of the middle and lower classes while the seniors are looking for acceptability like blind men looking for binoculars to see the future. Rahul Gandhi has picked a note from the past; uncle Sanjay Gandhi used the Youth Congress to chuck out the Janata Dal government. Kamal Nath, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Ambika Soni, Ramesh Chennithala, Gundu Rao, Tariq Anwar etc were knights of the Sanjay round table. Over one third of Lok Sabha members in 1980 had Youth Congress resumes since they were loyal to Sanjay. On the other hand, the BJP became India's largest political party because its giant leaders inducted young leaders — currently, half its leadership is from ABVP. However, its youth wing Bhartiya Yuva Morcha couldn't bag a profile like the IYC's. Tejasvi Surya, South Bengaluru MP and BYM president, is confined to his constituency and conspiracies. BJP's poll poster boy is more at ease in the company of top tech giant executives and corporate leaders unlike his Kanadigga counterpart. Surya has plumped for the elitist and glamorous model of Covid-fighting against Srinivas' street fighter model.

NO RETIRING DISPOSITION

The Khan Market gang has been sandbagged. Modi demolished their know-it-all image by choosing **Subodh Kumar Jaiswal**, a 1985 batch IPS officer from Maharashtra cadre, as CBI Director. His detractors were expecting the government to pick either Rakesh Asthana or YC Modi, both senior to Jaiswal and considered to be close to the PM and Amit Shah. Jaiswal has a clean reputation and is known for defying the establishment on his principles. As part of Atal Behari Vajpayee's SPG team, he was known for professionalism and integrity. His appointment on the basis of a new law provided an escape route for the government from giving Asthana and Modi sensitive posts like the RAW chief or IB Director. Since, Chief Justice NV Ramana invoked an old Supreme Court verdict to note that no officer with less than six months to retire is eligible for elevation, Modi happily went along. Within 48 hours, the GOI gave an extension to IB Director Arvind Kumar and RAW chief Samant Kumar Goel till June 30 next year. Both were to retire by the end of next month.

TWO IN ONE BOAT

Our mandarins are tying themselves in knots guesstimating the future of the power circuit's two most visible civil servants. The doubting duo are **Sunil Arora**, former Chief Election Commissioner and **Amitabh Kant**, CEO, NITI Aayog, who hangs up his boots by June end. Arora was made Election Commissioner after retirement and the BJP was over the moon with his eagerness and elasticity, especially in West Bengal. He has been a top performing asset of the bureaucracy. Meanwhile, some babus are rooting for a better deal for Kant. The smooth-talking party hound and master at relationships will be the first officer to complete more than five years in Niti Aayog and get an extension twice. The man, who came up with Incredible India and made Kerala a byword in world travel, hasn't done anything incredible since then except staying a favourite of the both UPA and NDA. Arora and Kant have dabbled, delivered and talked more during NDA rule than the Congress era. Since Anil Baijal, Delhi's non-performing L-G, has reached the end of his unmemorable term, who will be moving into the Raj Bhavan? Kant, Arora or some other retired civil servant? Only Modi knows.

QUOTE CORNER

If you are going to have a disagreement with Beijing, it's far better to arrive at that position conjointly with other countries rather than unilaterally, because it makes it easier for China to exert bilateral leverage against you

Kevin Rudd, former Australian Prime Minister

Despite Israel's claims that many buildings were hosting armed groups or being used for military purposes, we have not seen evidence.... There is no doubt that Israel has the right to defend. However, Palestinians have rights too

Michelle Bachelet, UN rights chief

Trying to lift the hurdles in order to allow vaccine production in South Africa and all of Africa. We are in favour of that... What we need to do is vaccinate as soon as possible. It is a matter of duty and solidarity

Emmanuel Macron, French President

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Mamata should end friction

How long will the fight between the Centre and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee go on? As for the latest, when the Prime Minister was in station for a cyclone review meeting with the CM, the latter handed him some papers and skipped the meeting to attend another 'pre-scheduled' programme. Such audacity from her is sickening, to say the least. When the PM is discharging his official responsibilities unmindful of the political differences, should the CM not reciprocate in the same spirit? Ultimately, it is the poor people of the state who will suffer.

Geetha B K, Mangaluru

Quota conundrum in Kerala

The Kerala High Court quashing the order fixing scholarship quota for minorities at the ratio of 80:20 may trigger disquiet in the social milieu of the state. It would be a walk on thin ice for the LDF government to satisfy both the Muslims and the Christians since Muslim would insist for the status quo, while the Christians may demand a bigger piece of pie. Instead of robbing Peter to pay Paul, the Pinarayi government has to find a way out to keep both the communities in good humour.

A Raveendranath, Aranmula

Shameful episode at school

Really shocking to see a teacher from the renowned PSS, Chennai being accused and arrested for sexual misconduct. Shorn of all the political grandstanding and the Brahmin versus others posturing, the reality is that the school has failed its students. A school is a second home and the children have to be safe within its confines. If the authorities failed to protect the students, they have absolutely no business being in charge. The entire management, including the principal and the trustees, has to go. There is no need for the government to take control of the school, but there should be checks and balances in the education sector.

CK Subramaniam, Chennai

Boycott Chinese products

This refers to the news report on 'India supports probe into origin of virus' (May 29). The whole country is undergoing untold miseries of all sorts. Though the move will irk China, it can't absolve itself from its blunder that has wreaked havoc on the world. Once the origin of Covid is traced, the world should boycott the nation responsible for the spread of the deadly virus. Till then, we should boycott all the products of China and try to make ourselves self-reliant in all aspects.

S Nallasivan, Tirunelveli

Regulation of social media

This has reference to the article 'Reining in social media' on how the social networks are behaving in each country or rather how they dance to the tune of those countries. Barring the US and West European countries, other nations are banning or blocking such networks so that people's agitations against the establishments are nipped in the bud. In Asia, cracking the whip on social media is largely prevalent. Social networks should feel happy that India is liberal towards them. The new governing rules laid down by the Centre also do not seem impractical to feel aggrieved.

R Sridharan, Chennai

Challenges in higher education

This is with reference to 'Higher education in the post-covid era' (May 29). Covid has brought out a total evolution in higher education across the world. The don'ts have become dos and the taboos have become virtues in higher education, as explained in the article. The apple cart of educational institutions is upset and paving the way for the bandwagon of internet study. The demand-supply challenges seek new paradigms for a quality change. From the supply side, a new genre of teachers who are capable of marketing their skill and dexerity, based on the novel definition of learn-unlearn- and re-learn, will get the reins for a Total Quality Management' in higher education. From the demand angle, the students who are ready to break the traditional systems will get the new pie.

Dr Viswanathan CN, Thrissur

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
So much fuss over an alleged 30 min wait? Indians waiting 7 years for Rs 15 lakh, waiting hours at ATM queues, waiting for vaccines

Kanhaiya Kumar @kanhaiyakumar
BJP has reached Lakshadweep to win the UP elections. These people will set fire in the south, take advantage in the north

Ravi Shankar Prasad @rsprasad
Social media companies have appointed fact checkers. There are some fact-checkers whose main agenda is drive hatred against Modi

NCPCR seeks Covid orphan data

Ministry figures show 577 children have lost both parents, states told to bear school fees

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE country's apex child rights body has asked the states to share data related to children who have lost both or one parent in the ongoing second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, on its Bal Swaraj portal, in order to carry out their real time monitoring.

As per the data compiled by the Union Women and Child Development Ministry, 577 children in the country have lost both parents to the infectious disease. There is no figure available on children who have lost at least one parent.

"This mechanism had not been put in place last year during the first wave, but the impact of the second wave on the kids has been far more severe," said Priyank Kanoongo, chairman of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

"We therefore want the states, as directed by the Supreme Court too, to share the required data urgently so that the well being and education of the kids can be taken care of," he said, adding that the state commissions can pay random visits to check the condition of these children.

Children under treatment at a Covid-19 care centre in Maharashtra's Sangli | PTI

Kanoongo explained that in most instances, orphaned children will be restored with the willing immediate family, or can be sent to homes or be put up at specialised adoption centres, depending on the circumstances and as recommended by the child welfare committees in districts. "The CWC will prepare individual plans for all 577 such kids," said NCPCR chief said.

In a separate letter to the state education secretaries, the Commission also said that in case of death of one or both parents of the child enrolled in a private school, the expenditure on elementary education in the same school may be borne by the government. The body also said this will apply to all categories of schools, aided, unaided as well as private.

"Schools with minority institution status and all residential schools shall also follow the procedure and ensure that no such child is forced to leave school in any manner against the child's choice due to non-payment of fees," the letter addressed to principal education secretaries of states said.

For the children above Class VIII, who are beyond the purview of the Right to Education act, NCPCR said that the state government should devise guidelines for the schools and make a policy for reimbursing the expenditure on education of these children.

From the Non-Institutional Child Care Fund, the Union government had earlier released Rs 10 lakh to each district for the care of orphaned children in the pandemic.

Government to stop distribution of Remdesivir as production multiplies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CLAIMING that the production of Remdesivir — a drug used to treat Covid-19 patients — has been raised by 10 times in India, the Centre on Saturday announced that its allocation to states has been decentralised.

The Union government said that while 33,000 vials of this injection were being produced in India each day on April 11, it has now reached 3.5 lakh vials per day.

With the supply more than the demand, the Centre will no longer allocate the anti-viral drug to the states, declared Union minister of state for chemicals and fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya.

The number of plants producing Remdesivir has been increased from 20 to 60 within a month. The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Agency and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation have been asked to continuously monitor the availability of the drug in the country, the minister added.

Besides, the Centre has decided to procure 50 lakh vials of Remdesivir to maintain it as a strategic stock for emergency requirements, Mandaviya said. "But I have also directed @nppa_india & @CDSCO_INDIA_INF to continuously monitor the availability of Remdesivir in the country," he noted.

In order to improve supply, the government has already waived customs duty on Remdesivir, its raw materials, and other components used in making the antiviral drug in order to help augment domestic availability and reduce the cost of the injection.

During the peak of the second wave of Covid19 in the country in late April and early May, the desperate calls by the kin of patients on social media platforms, seeking the drug and even paying exorbitant amounts to secure it in the black market had been a regular feature.

Remdesivir, as per the scientific evidence available so far, has only a very limited role in helping Covid19 patients as it does not prevent death or arrests progression of the disease, but maybe reducing the period of hospitalisation for some patients.

The drug however has been part of the national treatment protocol for Covid-19 as an investigational therapy, suggested for moderate to severe cases under specific circumstances.

Gehlot, BJP lock horns over wastage of vaccine

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

POLITICAL tussle in Rajasthan over vaccine wastage is intensifying. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has refuted allegations made by the BJP of wastage of 11 lakh doses and questioned the data released on the government's CoWin app.

The chief minister of the Congress government claimed that the state's vaccine wastage rate was only two per cent, which is much less than the national average of six per cent. He said the BJP was trying to mislead people.

Gehlot said in the initial days of the vaccination drive, the entry of 2.95 lakh doses was made twice at many vaccination centres on CoWin, software for tracking the vaccines, due to technical problems. Due to this, the number of vaccines shown on the software was stated to be 17001220, which is not correct.

Gehlot stated that earlier in the CoWIN software, the name of the beneficiary was automatically entered. If people did not get the vaccine in the coefficient of 10, then the other beneficiary could not have an offline entry, which caused the vaccine to deteriorate. "For this reason, we wrote to the Centre seeking offline registration so that the vaccine is not wasted," he said.

Gehlot was apparently responding to the allegations of Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who said that the 'Rajasthan model' of combating the pandemic was nothing but Congress mismanagement of the health service. He accused the state government of hiding the fatality and case data and doing politics to blame the Modi government. This has been said by other leaders of the opposition also, particularly from the saffron party.

Chief Minister Gehlot hit back by saying that the BJP was trying to lower the morale of corona warriors. "In the virtual conference held on May 21, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had said that there was a technical problem in the Central government portal which showed an increase in the percentage of vaccine wastage."

LINE OF SAFETY

View of the newly opened 900-bed Covid-19 hospital at Mahatma Mandir Exhibition Centre in Gujarat's Gandhinagar | PTI

CLASSES ONLINE

Schools in Chhattisgarh to restart from June 16

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Raipur

CHHATTISGARH has declared that the upcoming academic session in schools will commence from June 16. All government and private schools in the state will reopen.

Teaching will be in the online mode or in *mohalla* (neighbourhood) classes, considering that the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country is still to subside fully.

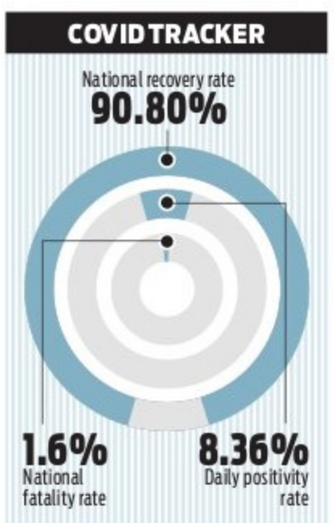
The school education department has instructed officials to ensure that text books are delivered to over 50 lakh students from classes I to X by the middle of next month.

Mohalla classes are intended for students who are not able to join online classes. It is a model wherein the school sort of comes to the doorsteps of the students, while following the usual school routine.

Uniforms and text books are to be distributed to the students free of cost in case of the government-run institutions.

Besides, the usual arrangements of mid-day meals will also be made. In the previous academic session last year, over 85 per cent of the students in the state were part of the Mohalla and online classes, a senior officer of the state education department said.

COVID TRACKER



Swab sample collection in Jammu on Saturday | PTI

22,28,724	TOTAL ACTIVE CASES
1,14,428	DECLINE IN ACTIVE CASES
20,80,048	TESTS CONDUCTED IN 24 HOURS
2,84,601	RECOVERIES IN 24 HOURS

At current rate, Uttarakhand will take 18 months to inoculate 70%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

AT the current rate of vaccination, it will take another 16-18 months to cover about 70 per cent of the population of Uttarakhand, revealed analysis of data from the state health department. Seventy per cent means over 80 lakh.

Anoop Nautiyal, whose Social Development for Communities has been collating and analysing data since the first Covid-19 case surfaced in the state on March 15 last year, said: "To vaccinate the population between the age group of 18-45, 1.32 crore doses are needed." Till May 27, a total of 35,36,840 vaccine doses to check Covid 18 have been administered. Of this, 21,72,760 have been given the first dose and 6,82,040 both the doses.

At present, the estimated population of the state is 1.15 crore, out of which around 66 lakh are between 18 and 44. Uttarakhand has received a total of 29,98,400 doses till May 21. Out of this, 92,370 are Covaxin and 29,06030 are Covishield.

Officials from the state health department said that vaccine doses for those above 45 are allocated by the Centre free of cost. Costs of doses for those above 18 are brone by the state government and private players, if they are willing to procure the doses.

As far as the vaccine allocation trend is concerned, it has witnessed an upward growth from January 2021. In that month, the state received a total of 205500 doses of Covisheild allocated by the Centre followed by 4,26,660 in February, 6,28,540 in March, 8,97,150 in April and 7,59,550 in May.

Uttarakhand received its first-ever lot of Covid-19 vaccines on January 13, with 1.13 lakh. This was followed by 92,500 on January 20, 1,40,160 on February 4, 1,93,500 on February 11, 93,000 on February 26, 2,24,010 on March 9, 2,03,790 on March 22, 2,00740 on March 31, 1,95,240 on April 2, 1,38,340 on April 11, 1,54,570 on April 14, 2,00,000 on April 16, 90,000 on April 17, 50,000 on April 21, 50,000 on April 23, 1,00,000 on April 27, 2,00,000 on May 3, 1,20,000 on May 4, 1,75,000 on May 8, 42,370 on May 12, 1,22,180 on May 18 and 1,00,000 on May 21. A total of 2,64,550 doses have been procured by the state government from domestic manufacturers.

EXPECTING SUPPLY OF COVISHIELD

The state government is also due to receive 1,41,130 doses of Covishield from Serum Institute of India, Pune, any day, said state health department officials.

Kumbh official says it was no super spreader

PTI @ Dehradun

A top Kumbh Mela official Saturday said it was unfair to call it a Covid "super-spreader" as just 0.2 per cent of the total RT-PCR tests conducted in Haridwar from January 1 till the conclusion of the event returned a positive result, while just 0.5 per cent policemen on mela duty contracted the virus.

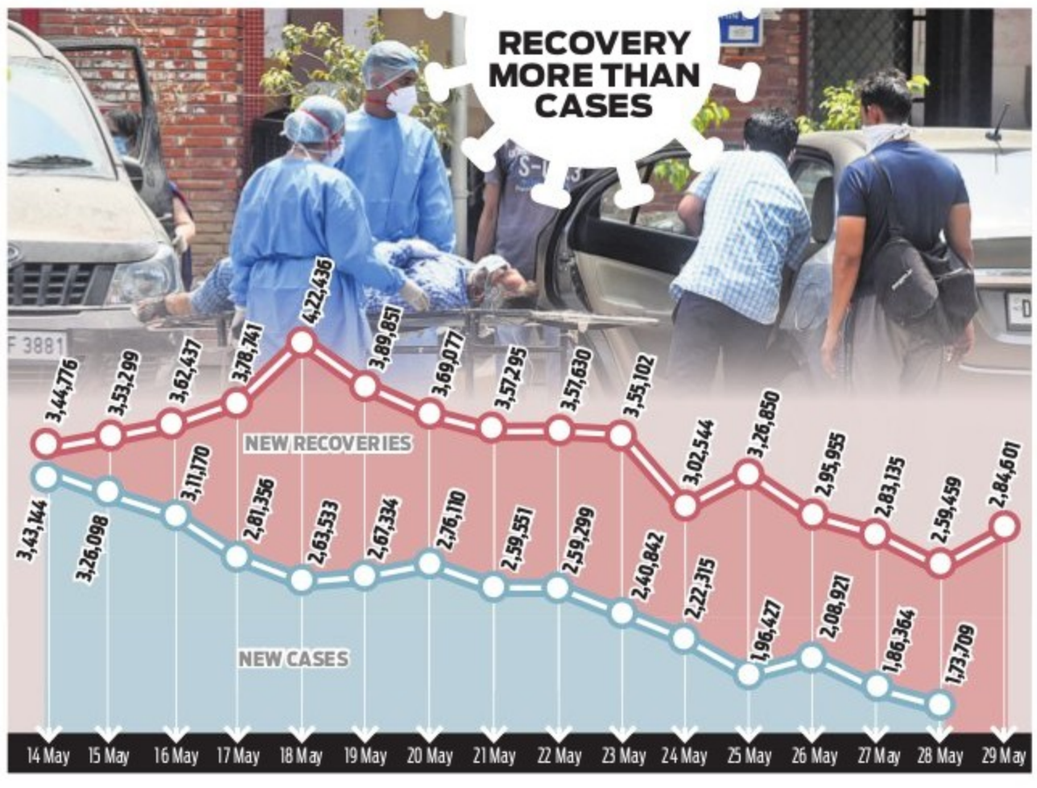
Mela IG Sanjay Gunjyal said the event formally began on April 1, by which time the second wave of Covid was already raging in states like Maharashtra and Haryana. "If we analyse the data of Haridwar from January 1 to the conclusion of Kumbh on April 30, attempts to create a perception that Kumbh was a super-spreader of the pandemic appear unfair," Gunjyal said. He was in charge of security arrangements in Haridwar and adjoining areas.

NATH KICKS UP ROW AGAIN

Bhopal: Five days after he was booked by Bhopal Police Crime Branch for his controversial "Indian Variant" remark, the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and state Congress president Kamal Nath kicked up a fresh row on Friday by saying, "India isn't Mahan (great) but a Badnam (infamous) country". Citing the alleged remark, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia sought to know the Congress' stand on his comments.

HOSPITAL TOLD TO RETURN ₹10L

Nagpur: A private hospital in Nagpur has been asked to return `10 lakh it allegedly overcharged from Covid-19 patients in the name of various tests, civic officials said on Saturday. A Nagpur Municipal Corporation release said Radiance Hospital had charged 92 patients different rates for the same tests and amassed `10,32,243. The release said the hospital did not reply to questions asked by a committee formed by NMC.



Pune and Nagpur see big dip, Mumbai not quite

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MUMBAI has witnessed a dip in Covid positive cases, but not a major decline. On the other hand, Nagpur and Pune that reported a sharp surge in positive cases have now reported a major decline in recent days.

The Maharashtra health department data said there are 28,793 active cases in Mumbai, 52,550 in Pune and 14,593 cases in Nagpur. In the last four days, the Pune Municipal Corporation has been reporting less than 1,000 cases daily while Nagpur city has seen a similar trend with daily cases going below the 500 mark.

Mumbai has been reporting positive cases daily between 1,000 and 1,400 for several days. The pandemic situation in the financial capital of the country is under control – a drop in positive cases from 11,000 in early April to 1,000 currently -- but the positive numbers are not significantly declining. That's the reason the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is cautious about reopening shops and establishments after June 1 lockdown.

In Nagpur, a strict lockdown and an active effort by Union minister Nitin Gadkari have worked to bring down the Covid cases. In Pune, deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar has regularly reviewed the pandemic situation and has camped in Pune. In Mumbai, civic chief Iqbal Singh Chahal and the team worked hard to pull the city from the danger zone in the second wave.

Ravi Raja, senior Congress corporator and Opposition leader in BMC, said the BMC leadership should take the Oppositions in confidence while implementing any scheme or door-to-door health check-ups.

"It should be a collective effort; no individual should claim credit for it. It is true that BMC has huge resources at its disposal to carry out any work, but people's participation is equally important. The positive cases are now staggered in the last few days," said the Congress leader.

POSITIVE CASES

MAY 22: Mumbai **1,283,** Pune **908,** Nagpur **451**

MAY 23: Mumbai **1,427,** Pune **786,** Nagpur **326**

MAY 24: Mumbai **1,049,** Pune **541,** Nagpur **271**

MAY 25: Mumbai **1,029,** Pune **739,** Nagpur **220**

MAY 26: Mumbai **1,335,** Pune **776,** Nagpur **370**

MAY 27: Mumbai **1,258,** Pune **637,** Nagpur **263**

MAY 28: Mumbai **924,** Pune **604,** Nagpur **225**

It should be a collective effort. No individual should claim credit. It's true that BMC has huge resources, but people's participation is important. Positive cases have been staggered the last few days

Ravi Raja,
Congress corporator

VISTARA GETS A320NEO JET

Vistara on Saturday received its first purchased A320neo aircraft, powered by CFM International's LEAP engines, in Delhi from Airbus' production facility in Toulouse, France

1 ARRESTED WITH 9KG OF POPPY STRAW IN J&K

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	27	Mumbai	32	28
Bhopal	39	27	Panaji	33	26
Jaipur	40	30	Patna	32	22
Amritsar	42	29	Lucknow	35	24
Chennai	35	28	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	36	29	Imphal	31	21
Srinagar	29	14	Chandigarh	38	29

After Amphan relief scam, Bengal govt to plug compensation leakage

Govt to bypass civic bodes and directly distribute compensation to victims of Cyclone Yaas

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

STUNG by criticism over alleged corruption in cyclone Amphan relief distribution last year, the West Bengal government has decided to distribute compensation for cyclone Yaas victims bypassing the leaders of civic bodies.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has made it clear that separate task forces, set up at the state, district, sub-divisional and block levels, will work under the direct supervision of the chief secretary and for managing cyclone Yaas relief operations. "The government's own machinery will be engaged to ensure compensation for those who deserve. No party worker or local leaders will be engaged in the process of identifying cyclone victims," Banerjee said. In the run-up to the Assembly elections earlier this year, the BJP had accused several Trinamool functionaries of forcing cyclone Amphan victims to pay "cut-money". They also accused ruling party leaders of siphoning off money sent by the Centre for cyclone Amphan relief.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee takes stock of the damages caused by Cyclone Yaas in Digha town of the state | PTI

"The CM had expressed her displeasure over the issue of post-Amphan 'corruption', which surfaced during an inquiry. In many cases, members of gram panchayats or panchayat samities or their relatives or people having allegiance to the ruling party were found siphoning off compensation money even when their houses had not been affected by the cyclone. In some districts, the TMC high command had suspended the satraps," an official in the state secretariat, Nabanna, said.

The government has now engaged six nodal departments — agriculture, disaster management, animal resources development, horticulture, fisheries and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) — to identify beneficiaries of cyclone Yaas. It has also decided to set up camps from June 3 to 18 under 'Duare Tran' (relief at doorstep), a programme akin to its governance-at-doorstep model 'Duare Sarkar', rolled out just before the assembly elections. "The camps will be organised in the affected areas and victims can directly apply for compensation. The applications will be verified between June 19 and 30, and compensation directly credited to bank accounts of beneficiaries from July 1 to 8," said the official.

LOCKDOWN EFFECT

Homeless people in national capital struggling to get ration

RITWIKA MITRA @ New Delhi

IN retrospect, the first lockdown caused much less of a struggle than the present for Sanno and her family. Sanno and her husband are among New Delhi's homeless population, unable to manage two square meals a day amid the present lockdown.

They live on the pavements near the Jama Masjid in Delhi. As the national capital prepares to gradually unlock, they are uncertain about what lies ahead.

"There has been no help from the government. We have received no rations. During the first lockdown, the government had arranged for cooked meals. This time, we have been left to fend for ourselves. There is no help from any quarter this time... We do not know how we will sustain ourselves through this phase," said Sanno who, before lockdown, used to earn a living by selling waste materials gathered from the streets. Her husband is a rickshaw puller. His income too has come to down to naught amid the lockdown.

We lost a child right after the lockdown. The doctor kept telling us to provide nutritious food to the child. But we could not afford it. I lost my child. Now we have no idea how to provide for our five kids

Soni, a homeless person in Delhi

For Soni and her husband, the story is more or less the same—one of struggle. "We lost a child right after the lockdown. The doctor kept telling us to provide nutritious food to the child. But we could not afford it. I lost my child. Now we have no idea how to provide for our five kids," said Soni.

Ashok Pandey from the advocacy group Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) said the capital's homeless population was left vulnerable after the first wave. "They had already suffered massively after the first wave and the subsequent lockdown. They do not have any savings now unlike before the first lockdown. Data shows there are over 17 lakh homeless people in India. Delhi alone there are 1,50,000—2,00,000 homeless people.

"During the second wave of the pandemic, people outside the shelter homes have been left without any social security net. No help is reaching them," an activist said.

A homeless family living in New Delhi | EXPRESS

4K kitchens to provide free food in Jharkhand

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

WITH a large number of migrants coming back home to Jharkhand from other states due to the lockdown, the authorities have decided to restart the popular 'Mukhya Mantri Didi Kitchen' to help vulnerable families

During last year's lockdown, about 6,900 centres of the Didi Kitchen across the state, run by Self Help Groups played a key role in feeding the poor and the needy who lost their livelihood due to the lockdown. More than four crore meals were served last year. As many as 25,000 women were involved in the process—right from purchasing the ration to cooking and serving the meals.

Like last year, the kitchen will provide free food to the poor living in rural areas.

According to officials, more than 4,000 Didi Kitchens will be started in the first phase which will also cater to the food requirement of the nearby Covid Care Centers.

Jharkhand Labour Commissioner A Mutthu Kumar said that the Didi Kitchens are likely to become functional from the next week as the fund has been released for the same.

"We have already released funds to the 'Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society' asking them to start at least one Didi Kitchen in each of the Panchayats," Kumar said.

TRAGEDY

Toll in slab collapse in Thane rises to seven

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

AS many as seven people were killed after the slab of a residential building in Ulhasnagar of Maharashtra's Thane district collapsed late on Friday night.

According to officials of the Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation, the incident took place at Nehru Chowk, where a slab of the five-storeyed Sai Siddhi building collapsed. At least five were injured in the incident.

The slab from the fifth floor came crashing down to the ground floor. It fell over eight-nine people who were standing below.

A team of Ulhasnagar fire brigade and National Disaster Response Force reached the spot and pulled out those trapped under the debris.

Three women, as many number of men and one boy, died in the mishap," Santosh Kadam, chief of the Regional Disaster Management Cell of Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) said.

The deceased belonged to two families residing in the building, he said.

There were 29 flats in this 26-year-old building, Kadam said.

"Around 9 pm, the drawing-room slabs of five flats—right from the top floor up to the bottom one—caved in. On being alerted, the personnel of the RDMC and the Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF) rushed to the scene and launched a search and rescue operation," he said.

The operation was called off at 12.46 am on Saturday following the recovery of the seventh body, the official said. Minister Eknath Shinde rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation.

Sulking BJP playing dirty games: Didi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

Change in mechanism

Kolkata: The West Bengal government will distribute Yaas cyclone relief through special task forces, which will bypass the local civic bodies. The decision follows allegations that people with close ties to the ruling party had wrongfully claimed relief in districts in the aftermath of cyclone Amphan

THE Prime Minister should not play a 'dirty game' and instead withdraw the letter directing Bengal's top bureaucrat to report to Delhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asserted on Saturday.

Not one to cower under attack, the CM added that the BJP failed to digest its defeat in the recent elections and the saffron camp is now pursuing 'vendetta politics'. Mamata claimed that PM Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah were trying to create problems for her government at every step ever since her party came to power. Chief secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay was served the transfer notice after Mamata, whom he had accompanied, skipped a review meeting with the PM to assess Cyclone Yaas' damages.

"You (Modi and Shah) are not only disturbing me, but also my secretariat. You issued the letter without consulting the state government. Earlier, I wrote seeking Bandopadhyay's three-month extension as he is assigned to oversee the fight against Covid and the government's relief operation for cyclone victims. He was scheduled to retire on May 31 and the request was approved. Now you are asking him to report to the DoPT on the same day. Why? Is it because he is a Bengali bureaucrat?" asked Mamata.

Many saw her statement as an extension of her election ploy of appealing to the Bengali sentiment of the masses. Continuing the same narrative, Mamata said she was ready touch Modi's feet if told to do for the sake of Bengal's growth and development.

IN DIRE STRAITS

A flooded ward of the Government Sadar Hospital in Bihar's Kathar district following heavy rains in the aftermath of Cyclone Yaas on Saturday | PTI

FCI bribery case: CBI recovers ₹3 crore, cash counting machine during searches

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

FOUR officials of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), including the divisional manager, two managers, and an assistant have been arrested by the CBI's anti-corruption unit in Bhopal in connection with a ₹1 lakh bribery case.

The sleuths of the central agency raided six locations in connection with the case and seized ₹3.01 crore cash, 387 gm gold jewellery and 670 gm silver jewellery, besides incriminating documents.

The arrested officials—Divisional Manager Harish Hinonia, Managers Arun Shrivastava and Mohan Parate, Manager and Assistant Kishore Meena —were produced before a special court in Bhopal which sent them to CBI custody till June 2, they said.

The case pertains to the alleged demand of ₹1.50 lakh —at the rate of ₹50,000 per month for January, February and March–in bribe to release pending bills of a company, agency officials said.

They had also asked to pay ₹70,000 for every bill to be deposited in future for clearance, they said.

After verification of the complaint, the central agency carried out a raid at the place where a bribe was decided to be exchanged, and arrested the officials.

The cash amount was allegedly kept in different envelopes, some of the bundles marked / written with names of the parties, dates and amounts... —R C Joshi, CBI spokesperson

EXPRESS READ

Another Assam MLA succumbs to Covid-19

Guwahati: United People's Party Liberal MLA Leho Ram Boro died of Covid-19 at a hospital here on Saturday, the second sitting legislator from Assam to succumb to the infection in less than a week, a doctor at the medical facility said. Boro, 63, was admitted to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital on Thursday after he tested positive for Covid-19. "His condition deteriorated since Friday night. He suffered a cardiac arrest and died today," doctor of the state-run hospital

Nature of war changing, warns Naval chief

New Delhi: Naval Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Saturday said the nature of war is changing where there is a need to engage adversaries in all domains like land, sea, air, space and cyber, and stressed on the increased importance of "jointness" among the country's three services. Admiral Singh was speaking at the National Defence Academy (NDA) at Khadakwasla here after reviewing the Passing Out Parade of the 140th course of the academy.

NIA chargesheets suspected member of Hizb ut-Tahrir terrorist group

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed a charge-sheet against Mohammed Iqbal, a suspected member of a terror group named Hizb ut-Tahrir, which is banned in many countries.

In the charge-sheet, which was filed in a special NIA court in Chennai, the agency said Iqbal, 31, conspired with other members of the terror group, professed and preached about establishing an Islamic State caliphate.

Iqbal was charged under various sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code. The case was originally registered in Madurai, Tamil Nadu against Iqbal alias Senthil Kumar for uploading "denigrating posts" on Facebook, the agency said.

An investigation revealed that the posts on the Facebook page "Thoonga Vizhigal Rendu is in Kazimar Street" were uploaded by the accused to incite communal disharmony amongst different religious groups, in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order.

The charge-sheet states that Iqbal created multiple social media accounts, on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, Telegram, WhatsApp etc to upload posts intending to disclaim, disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, and to excite disaffection towards the Indian government. Further investigation in the case is still on, the NIA officials said.

Meanwhile, the NIA chargesheeted two Hizbul Mujahideen overground workers (OGWs) on Saturday in a case related to a criminal conspiracy to carry out terror attacks at in Uttar Pradesh.

NCP asks Anand Shinde to sing Pawar songs

The Nationalist Congress Party had proposed singer Anand Shinde's name for the MLC. However, the file containing the names of 12 nominees, four by each party – NCP, Congress and the Shiv Sena—have been gathering dust at the Raj Bhavan for the last six months. Maharashtra governor has to fill these 12 vacancies from various fields like art, literature, sport etc. But, the NCP has asked Anand Shinde, who was waiting for his MLC nomination to be confirmed, to sing songs on the life of NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, the works of Supriya Sule and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar. Anand Shinde may be waiting for Godot, but the NCP has decided to make use of his talent as singer to reach out to the public.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
suryawanshi.sudhir@gmail.com

BJP MP campaigns hard for Maratha quota

BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Chhatrapati Shambhaji has knocked on the doors of some very prominent state leaders including CM Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray over the issue of Maratha quota. Shambhaji is now scheduled to meet Dalit leader Dr Prakash Ambedkar over the issue. Earlier, Shambhaji tried to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has written at least three letters to the PM, requesting a meeting to discuss the Maratha reservation. Sambhaji's relation with other leaders in his own party has now become strained. But, he is trying to carve out space for himself in the state's crowded political arena by being the leading voice for quota

Staffers told not to bother Uddhav

A senior minister in Maharashtra's Maha Vikas Aghadi government has told his staff that they should not bother Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray for anything and everything. The chief minister is not someone who would be available round the clock to address all the administrative and personal issues, the staffers were told. As the chief minister, Uddhav will only meet prominent ministers, including deputy chief minister and senior-most Congress ministers. Therefore, it is better to curtail their expectations and adjust with the working style of Thackeray, the staffers were told.

Karuna Munde launches legal battle against spouse

The sister of Maharashtra's NCP minister Dhananjay Munde's wife recently alleged that she was raped and assaulted by him. Dhananjay has two children from Karuna who are staying with him at his official residence. Both are fighting legal battles, one for detachment and the other for a share in the property. Sources say Karuna tried to malign Munde's image by making allegations against him publicly and asking her sister to file an FIR. Now, Karuna is said to be writing a book about her relationship with Munde and other issues.

11 people, including 3 children, were killed, and 13 injured when a van plunged into a ditch in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	28	13	LC	Los Angeles	24	15	LC
Colombo	30	27	TDS	Melbourne	15	4	SNY
Dhaka	34	28	TDS	Moscow	15	7	LC
Dubai	42	29	SNY	New York	12	10	LR
Houston	29	22	LC	Singapore	31	27	TDS
Istanbul	25	16	SNY	Toronto	16	9	SNY
London	21	10	LC	Washington	12	10	LR

US targets Belarus with sanctions amid outcry over plane diversion

White House's economic curbs on Belarusian state-owned entities to begin on June 3

WASHINGTON

THE United States has announced punitive measures against Belarus targeting the regime of strongman President Alexander Lukashenko, who met with Russian president Vladimir Putin amid a global outcry over the forced diversion of a European plane.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki called for "a credible international investigation into the events of May 23," which she called "a direct affront to international norms."

Belarus scrambled a military jet to divert a Ryanair plane and arrested 26-year-old opposition journalist and activist Roman Protasevich who was onboard, triggering a global outcry.

The White House announced it was working with the European Union on a list of targeted sanctions against key members of Lukashenko's regime.

Meanwhile, economic sanctions against nine Belarusian state-owned enterprises, reimposed by Washington in April following a crackdown on pro-democracy protests, will come into effect on June 3.

Further US moves on Belarus could target "those that support corruption, the abuse of human rights, and attacks on democracy," Psaki said.

The White House also issued a "Do Not Travel" warning for Belarus to US citizens, and warned American passenger planes to "exercise extreme caution" if considering flying over Belarusian airspace.

The European Union has also urged EU-based carriers to avoid Belarusian airspace.

However President Vladimir Putin celebrated Russia's close ties with Belarus on Friday as he hosted Lukashenko in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

With observers closely watching the talks to see how far the Kremlin would go to support the regime, the Russian leader said he was "very glad" to see Lukashenko and agreed with him the Western reaction was an "outburst of emotion".

Lukashenko complained the West was seeking to stir unrest in Belarus. "An attempt is underway to rock the boat to reach the level of last August," he said, referring to anti-regime protests following a disputed election.

The Belarus strongman, who arrived with a briefcase, said he wanted to show Putin "some documents" related to the Ryanair incident and thanked him for his support in the latest standoff with the West. The talks lasted for more than five hours but their results were not announced.

Over the past years Lukashenko has had a volatile relationship with Moscow, playing it off against the West and ruling out outright unification with Russia. AFP

Members of the Belarusian diaspora in Ukraine hold a rally against Lukashenko's regime outside the foreign ministry in Kiev | AFP

> **(US is calling for) a credible international investigation into the events of May 23, which is a direct affront to international norms**
>
> Jen Psaki, White House press secretary

An earthmover removes debris washed ashore from the burning ship on a beach in Colombo on Saturday | AFP

'Sri Lanka facing its worst marine ecological disaster'

COLOMBO

SRI Lanka's apex environment body said on Saturday the country was facing its worst marine ecological disaster triggered after a Singapore-flagged cargo ship caught fire near the Colombo beach, fuelling severe environmental concerns.

The cargo vessel was carrying a consignment of chemicals and raw materials for cosmetics from Hazira in Gujarat to Colombo Port on May 20 when it caught fire some 9.5 nautical miles away from the port of Colombo.

Apart from the 325 metric tonnes of fuel in its tanks, the vessel was loaded with 1,486 containers carrying about 25 tonnes of hazardous nitric acid.

Darshani Lahandapura, Chairperson of the Marine Environment Pollution Authority (MEPA), said that according to the available information so far this would be the worst marine ecological disaster in the island nation.

"With the available information so far, this can be described the worst disaster," she said. The plastic beads floating in the waters covering the affected coastal area are badly affecting the marine ecology, she said.

The fishing breeding points and mangroves around the Negombo Lagoon were very sensitive and resultant pollution could affect them. PTI

ARRANGED MARRIAGE

Search on for Pak girl feared killed by own family in Italy

ROME

POLICE in Italy are searching for the body of an 18-year-old girl suspected to have been killed by her Pakistani family after refusing an arranged Muslim marriage.

The girl's parents, an uncle and two cousins are under investigation for murder, lieutenant colonel Stefano Bove of the Carabinieri police said Saturday. All "are supposed to have taken part in the crime", he told reporters, while officers were combing through farmland to find the missing girl, Saman Abbas. Bove said the Carabinieri were inspecting "wells, irrigation canals and greenhouses".

Saman Abbas, who lived in the northern town of Novellara, last year rebelled against her family's traditional plan to have her wedded to a cousin in their home country.

While still a minor, she turned to social services and in November was moved into a shelter home. She also reported her parents to police, but on April 11 returned to them.

Police has been searching for her since May 5, when officers visited her house and found nobody, triggering an investigation.

Remains of 215 kids found at closed indigenous boarding school in Canada

TKAMLOOPS

THE remains of 215 children, some as young as three years old, have been found buried on the site of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school, one of the institutions that held children taken from families across the nation.

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secw'pemc First Nation said in a news release that the remains were confirmed last weekend with the help of ground-penetrating radar.

More bodies may be found because there are more areas to search on the school grounds, Casimir said on Friday.

In an earlier release, she called the discovery an "unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented at the Kamloops Indian Residential School." It was the once the site of Canada's largest residential school.

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a programme to assimilate them into Canadian society. They were forced to convert to Christianity and not allowed to speak their native languages. Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

Kamloops Indian Residential School

The Canadian government apologised in Parliament in 2008 and admitted that physical and sexual abuse in the schools was rampant. Many students recall being beaten for speaking their native languages; they also lost touch with their parents and customs. Indigenous leaders have cited that legacy of abuse and isolation as the root cause of epidemic rates of alcoholism and drug addiction on reservations.

A report more than five years ago by a Truth and Reconciliation Commission said at least 3,200 children had died amid abuse and neglect, and it said it had reports of at least 51 deaths at the Kamloops school alone between 1915 and 1963.

"This really resurfaces the issue of residential schools and the wounds from this legacy of genocide towards Indigenous people," Terry Teegee, Assembly of First Nations regional chief for British Colombia, said.

EXPRESS READ

Canadian MP caught urinating on camera

Ottawa: A Canadian MP has stepped down from some of his duties and said he is seeking "assistance" after being caught on camera urinating during a video conference in Parliament, a month after appearing naked in another virtual session. "Last night, while attending House of Commons proceedings virtually, in a non-public setting, I urinated without realising I was on camera," MP William Amos said in a tweet.

Six killed in militia attack in Congo

Beni: Six people were killed, including a woman who was burned alive, during an attack blamed on the regional militia group ADF in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, sources said Saturday. The Allied Democratic Forces were believed to have carried out the overnight attack on a road near the border with Uganda, where the group was founded. "ADF fighters attacked Kinyatsi, a village," said Donat Kibuana, local admini-strator for the Beni territory in North Kivu province.

GOP blocks Capitol riot probe, displaying loyalty to Trump

Washington: Senate Republicans blocked creation of a bipartisan panel to investigate the deadly January 6 attack on the Capitol, displaying continuing party loyalty to former President Donald Trump and firm determination to shift the political focus away from the violent insurrection by his GOP supporters. The Senate vote was 54-35 — six short of the 60 needed — to take up a House-passed bill that would have formed an independent 10-member commission evenly split between the two parties.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(VARAHI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/EEMSPH/2021-22/245 Date: 28.05.2021

Short Term Bid Notification (Through e-Procurement platform)

Bids in two parts are invited through e-procurement portal for "**Loading & Unloading of consignments, assistance in inventory activities, housekeeping at stores & garage area at Hosangadi for a period of One year and extendable for one more year based on satisfactory performance".** The details of NIT and Tender Document can be seen on website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for receipt of completed bids is **04.06.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs** with an EMD Declaration. Date of opening of Part-I (pre-qualification & technical Bid) is **05.06.2021 at 17:30 Hrs** and date of opening of Part-II (price bid) of the qualified bidders: **07.06.2021 at 10:00 Hrs** or on later date. For further details contact **Executive Engineer (MSP)H, Varahi Hydro Electric Project, KPCL, Hosangadi - 576282, Kundapur (T), Udupi (D), Karnataka.** Phone/ Mobile: +91-8259-288643/ +91-9449598832, KPCL website: **www.karnataka power.com https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** /Helpdesk: 080-2501216/ 25501227

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Zonal Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru: 7th Floor, (Vijaya Tower), 41/2, M G Road, Trinity Circle, Bengaluru–560 001. Ph: 080-2501 1280 / 350, Email: armban@bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE / MOVEABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the **Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, ZOSARB, Bangalore, Secured Creditor,** will be sold by E-auction through website: **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Mortgagor/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/ s	Description of the Immovable Properties	Reserve Price, EMD, Bid Increase Amount. & Last Date & time of receipt of EMD Amount	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1)	**1) M/S. Muralikrishna Infracon Bangalore Pvt. Ltd. represented by its Directors Mr. M Muralikrishna & Mrs. Madiraju Jayashree Regd. Address:** No. 7, 4th floor, 2nd cross, 8th Main, Shanbag Narayanappa layout, Opp.Kalpatharu Apartments, kodigehalli (near Tata Nagar) Bangalore 560 092 **Also at:** No.334, Sahkaranagar Post, Tata Nagar, Bangalore- 560092 **2) Mr. M Muralikrishna 3) Mrs. Madiraju Jayashree** Both 2 & 3 R/at Door No.291, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, 8th Cross, Tata Nagar, Bangalore- 560092, **Also at:** Flat No.309, A Block, Unique Concord Apartment, Sy. No.94/4, Lottegollahalli Main Road, Tatanagar, Near Vyasa International School, Bangalore- 560092	1) All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Flat No: A-091, in 9th Floor, 4BHK, having Super Built up area of 3331 Sq. ft. & UDS of 799.44 Sq. ft. in the apartment "Living Walls Another Sky", situated at Horamavu Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore- 560043, bounded by: East: Corridor & Staircase, West: Open to Sky, North: Lift , South: Open to Sky Area of Flat: Super Built up area of 3331 Sq. ft. & UDS of 799.44 Sq. ft.	**1) Reserve Price: Rs. 2,40,00,000/-, EMD: Rs.24,00,000/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 50,000/- Last Date & time of receipt of EMD Amount: 17.06.2021 Time: 5.00 PM**	**Rs. 16,25,44,963.21 (Rupees Sixteen Crore Twenty Five Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three & Paise Twenty One Only) as on 30.04.2021 plus Further interest and other charges**	**18.06.2021 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM**	**1) Physical Possession**	**With prior Appointment from Authorised Officer**
		2) All that piece and parcel of the Residential building consisting of Stilt+GF+FF+SF+Terrace having total built up area of 6744 Sq. ft. constructed on Site No: 7, Municipal No. 98/45/7, situated at Balaji Layout, AMCO Colony, Koti Hosahalli, Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore- 560092, bounded by: East: Road, West: Property belongs to Sri. Gundappa, North: Property No. 8, South: Property No. 6. Area of Land: East to West: 59 Feet; North to South: 40 Feet; Total of 2360 Sq. ft.	**2) Reserve Price: Rs.2,45,00,000/-, EMD: Rs.24,50,000/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 50,000/- Last Date & time of receipt of EMD Amount: 17.06.2021 Time: 5.00 PM**			**2) Physical Possession**	
		3) All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No: 48/3, Khata No. 48/3, Kodigehalli Village, Adjacent to Tata Nagar, Bangalore- 560092, bounded by: **Item No.1:** Eastern Portion of Site No.48/3, East: 60 Feet Road, West: K Nagaraju Property, North: Narayanappa Property , South: Ramakrishnappa's Property **Item No.2:** Western Portion of Site No.48/3 East : Chandrashekar's Property, West: Road, North: Sundaresh's Property, South: Ramakrishnappa's Property, Area of Land: Total: 6240 Sq. ft. (Item No.1: 3120 Sq. ft. + Item No.2: 3120 Sq. ft.), Item No.1: East to West: 78 Feet; North to South: 40 Feet; Item No.2: East to West: 78 Feet; North to South: 40 Feet;	**3) Reserve Price: Rs.5,05,00,000/- EMD: Rs.50,50,000/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 50,000/- Last Date & time of receipt of EMD Amount: 17.06.2021 Time: 5.00 PM**			**3) Physical Possession**	
		4) All that piece and parcel of the residential vacant Site No: 17, New Khatha No. 2633/2673/148/17, situated at 11th Main Road, Adjacent to Tata Nagara, Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru- 560092, bounded by: East:Road, West: Site No.18, North: Site No. 19, South: Road. Area of Land: [As per deed- East to West: 47 Feet; North to South: 60 Feet; Total of 2820.00 Sq. ft.] [As per Actual- East to West: (40+51)/2 Feet; North to South: 55 Feet; Total of 2502.50 Sq. ft.]	**4) Reserve Price: Rs. 1,16,00,000/- EMD: Rs. 11,60,000/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 50,000/- Last Date & time of receipt of EMD Amount: 17.06.2021 Time: 5.00 PM**			**4) Physical Possession**	
2)	**1. M/s Nisargalaya Drug Unit Private Ltd.** # 80/A3 Industrial Suburb, 2nd Stage Yeshwantpura, Bangalore- 560022.**Corporate Office:** #190, J P Square, 2nd floor Sankey Road, Sadashivnagar, Bangalore- 5600802. **Mr. Prabhu P B, s/o Byregowda** No. 9 and No 10, Fortune Valley, Mariannapalya, H A Pharma Post, Near Lumbini Garden, Bangalore- 560024 **3. Siddesh H M, S/o Mooganna Gowda,** No 37, 7th cross, Ganesha Block, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560086	All that the House with G+1 Floors having built up area of 2520 Sq. Feet each constructed on Site No.9 & 10, Khata No.205-2048/9 & Khata No.205-2048/10, PID No.2048/1038/09 & PID No.2048/1038/10 carved out of converted Sy.No.14, situated at Fortune Valley, Mariyannapalya, Kempapura Main Road, Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560024 and bounded by: For Site No.9 (East to West – 100 sqft. and North to South – 50 sqft totaling to 5000 sqft.) East: Road, West: Private Property, North: Private Property, South: Site No.10 For Site No.10 (East to West – 100 sqft. and North to South – 50 sqft totaling to 5000 sqft.) East: Road, West: Private Property, North: Site No.9, South: Site No.11	**Reserve Price: Rs.5,45,00,000/- EMD: Rs.54,50,000/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 1,00,000/- Last Date & time of receipt of EMD Amount: 17.06.2021 Time: 5.00 PM**	**Rs. 4,75,33,650.60 (Rupees Four Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty and Paisa Sixty Only) as on 30.04.2021 plus Further interest and other charges**	**18.06.2021 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM**	**Physical Possession**	**With prior Appointment from Authorised Officer**
3)	**1. M/S SUPRA FASHIONS** #49, Sarjapura Cross Road, Near Jakkasandra Bus stop, 1st Block, Koramangala Bangalore – 560034 **2. Sri. K N VISHNU S/o K D Nagaraja Setty,** Residing at No. 2220, 12th Main A block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010 **3. Smt. Rashmi V S w/o Prashanth,** Residing at No. 10, A Cross, SG Palya, Bangalore 560029. **Also at:** #153, 3rd Main, Milk Colony, Malleshwaram West, Bangalore 560055 **4. Sri. K D Nagaraja Setty S/o Dasagunda Setty,** Residing at No. 2220, 12th Main, A block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010 **5. Smt. Anusuya B R W/o K D Nagaraja Setty,** Residing at No. 2220, 12th Main, A block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar Bangalore 560010	All that piece and parcel of house property bearing site No. 2220/2, PID no: 9-60-2, Situated at 12th Main Road, 'A' Block, Subramanyapura, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560010. Measuring: East to west 42 feet, North to South: 36 ½ feet with building there on and bounded by East by: Road, West by: Site No. 2191, North by: Site no. 2219, South by: Site No. 2221	**Reserve Price: Rs.1,80,00,000/- EMD: Rs.18,00,000/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 50,000/- Last Date & time of receipt of EMD Amount: 17.06.2021 Time: 5.00 PM**	**Rs. 2,31,43,793.37 (Rupees Two Crore Thirty One Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Three & Paisa Thirty Seven Only) as on 30.04.2021 plus Further interest and other charges thereon.**	**18.06.2021 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM**	**Constructive Possession**	**With prior Appointment from Authorised officer**
4)	**1) M/S. Pradhyun's Group Rep by its partners: Mr. Puneeth N Gowda & Mrs. Nikhitha P** No.32, 15th Cross, 3rd Main, Margosa Road,Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560 003 **2) Mr. Puneeth N Gowda** ,No.3416, 1st Floor, 13th Main, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560 010 **3) Mrs. Nikhitha P Gowda,**No.3416, 1st Floor, 13th Main, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560 010 **4) Mr. Puneeth N Gowda** ,R/O No.22, SMS Residency, HIG Colony ,RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560 094 **5) Mrs. Nikhitha P Gowda,** R/O No.22, SMS Residency, HIG Colony, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560 094 **6) Mrs. Renuka W/O K Vasanth Kumar,** R/O #19/1, 6th Cross, Deve Gowda Block, Adugodi, Bangalore- 560 030 **7) Mr. Nanjunde Gowda,** R/O #3416, 1st Floor,13th Main, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560010 **Also at:** No.108, 3rd Cross, 4th Block, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore- 560 079	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No: 09 (Old no.3416), PID No. 8-44-9, constructed in CITB Site No.3416 at 1st Main Road, 'C' Block, Gayathrinagar (earlier II Stage, Rajajinagar). Bangalore measuring East to West (43+42)/2 feet and Noth to South 30 feet with building thereon consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor bounded by: East :Road, West: Road, North: Property No. 3417, South: Property No.3416/A Area of Land: Total: 1275 Sq. ft. East to West: (43+42)/2 Feet, North to South: 30 Feet.	**Reserve Price: Rs.2,02,79,000/- EMD: Rs. 20,27,900/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 50,000/- Last Date & time of receipt of EMD Amount: 17.06.2021 Time: 5.00 PM**	**Rs. 2,02,53,927.97 (Rupees Two Crore Two Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Seven and Paisa Ninety Seven Only) as on 30.04.2021 plus Further interest and other charges there on**	**18.06.2021 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM**	**Constructive Possession**	**With prior Appointment from Authorised Officer**

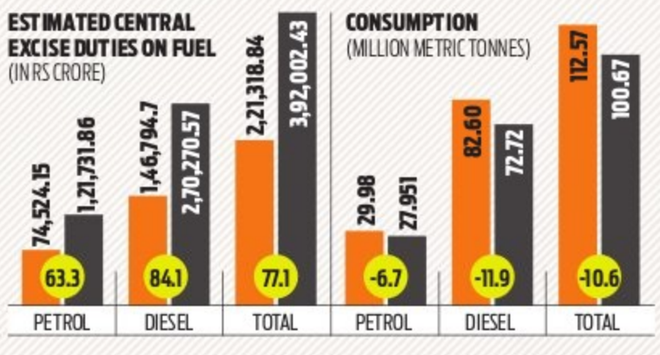
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel No. 080-25011210/280/350 Mobile: 9739316716

Date: 29.05.2021 , Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, ZOSAR Branch, Bengaluru, Bank of Baroda**

$592.89 bn was India's forex reserve as of May 21, a lifetime high. This was an increase of $2.8 billion over the previous week

Pandemic tax hikes boost collections

Since unlike state VAT, which is an ad valorem levy, central excise is charged as a fixed rate per litre, monthly consumption data can be used to arrive at an estimate of duty collections. In FY21, pan-India consumption of auto fuels were down 10.6% compared to the previous fiscal, but estimated fuel taxes collected by the Centre jumped a massive 77%.

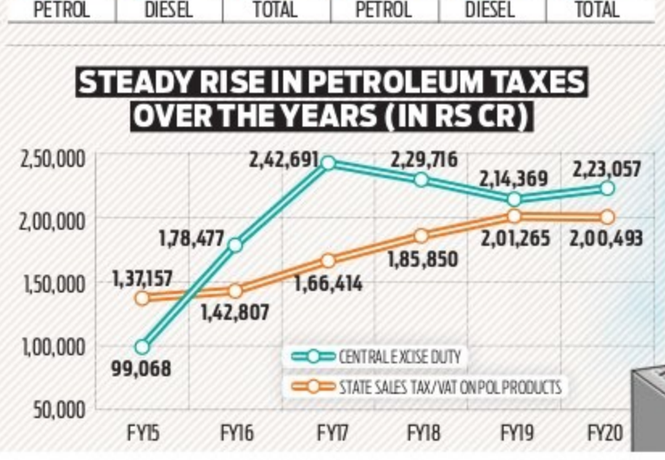


₹1,80,788 crore

Extra excise collected in FY21 resulting from fuel duty hikes imposed last year

FY20 FY21 % GROWTH

* Excise duties were hiked on petrol and diesel by ₹3 per litre each on March 14, 2020; and ₹10 per litre for petrol and ₹13 per litre on diesel on May 5, 2020. Quantum of central duties on fuel have not changed since.



Centre nets ₹1.8L cr extra revenue via fuel tax hikes

Estimated total excise duties on auto fuels in FY21 at ₹3.9 lakh crore

JONATHAN ANANDA @Chennai

THE Centre's massive excise duty hikes on auto fuels netted it around ₹1.8 lakh crore in additional revenue during the last fiscal year 2020-21, calculations based on the Union petroleum ministry's fuel consumption data show.

Estimated total excise duty collections on petrol and diesel stand at ₹3.9 lakh crore, a 77% jump from the previous year's ₹2.2 lakh crore. This, even as total petrol and diesel consumption during the year contracted by 10.6%, impacted as they were by lockdowns enforced to contain the pandemic.

The extra revenue comes from excise duty hikes the Centre made between March and May 2020, siphoning off to the exchequer the benefits of the summer's record fall in crude oil prices. The increases (₹13 per litre for petrol and ₹16 per litre for diesel) have helped offset the fall in other sources of tax revenue, but at the cost of keeping retail fuel prices high.

Central excise duties currently stand at ₹32.9 for a litre of petrol and ₹31.8 for a litre of diesel. Combined with Value Added Taxes (VAT), which differ from state to state, they make Indians among the world's most taxed fuel consumers. In Chennai on Saturday, petrol was being sold at ₹95.51 per litre, with central duties comprising 34 per cent of the retail price and state VAT (₹22.84/litre) accounting for another 24 per cent. Diesel, taxed at similar levels, was priced at ₹89.39 per litre.

Unlike retail fuel prices, which have steadily risen by 32% for petrol and 36% for diesel between March 16, 2020 (when the first set of hikes were imposed) to now, crude oil prices plunged from $68 in January 2020, to a low of below $20 in April 2020, before slowly climbing back to breach January levels in December 2020. Brent crude currently trades at $68-70 per barrel.

As for the exchequer, while dependence on fuel taxes has grown steadily for a few years, the excise duty hikes and the decline in other sources of tax revenue during the pandemic has accelerated the trend. Central excise duties on petroleum products accounted for nearly a fifth of India's ₹20 lakh crore gross tax revenue in FY21. In FY20, this number had stood at 11%; in FY15 it had been 8%.

The most recent update from the Union petroleum ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) shows that states had collected ₹1.3 lakh crore in sales tax and VAT on petroleum products in the nine months ended December 2020. State VAT levels vary across states, however, and petrol prices have gone past the ₹100 per litre mark in several locations in high-VAT states such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.

On Saturday, petrol prices in Mumbai breached the ₹100 per litre barrier.

Large duty cuts unlikely

Aside from the political fallout of high taxes, the government also has to contend with the inflationary pressures exerted by high fuel rates. However, economists note that it is unlikely that excise duties will be reduced significantly this fiscal year. "It is very unlikely, they do not have the (fiscal) space," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Care Ratings, "The lockdowns to contain the second wave are widespread and demand has been hit. Naturally, this means your GST collections are going to fall".

Petrol rate cross ₹100/litre in Mumbai

Petrol and diesel prices continued to see increases on Saturday, with oil marketing firms hiking petrol prices by 26 paise per litre and diesel by 28 paise a litre. The hikes, the fifteenth such instance this month, took fuel prices to record highs in many locations. In financial capital Mumbai, petrol now costs ₹100.19 a litre and diesel ₹92.17 per litre

NEWSCOPE

THE MARATHON MEN AT DELHI'S GATES

GURBIR SINGH

IT was a quiet 'Black Day' protest by the farmers. May 26 was six months down the road from the heady highway protests at the entry points to Delhi-at Ghazipur, Tikri, and Singhu. Small groups gathered with black turbans and flags to remind the government that the repeal of the farm laws remained unresolved. Time and the pandemic had taken a toll on the numbers, but the spirit has not waned.

The Narendra Modi regime, in the last two years, has faced two serious mass mobilizations-the anti-CAA agitation and the farmers protest. The Citizen Amendment Act (CAA) was passed in December 2019 allowing naturalisation rights to Hindu, Sikh, and other denominations fleeing from neighbouring countries; with the exception of Muslims. It triggered huge, mainly urban protests, against the discriminatory legislation.

The anti-CAA movement was a broad alliance between the Muslims and the liberal intelligentsia, and it went on for months. The Shaheen Bagh sit-in became a symbol of resistance. However, severe repression and the beginning of the pandemic in March, last year, saw these petering off.

The trajectory of the protests against the farm acts has been different. The BJP government rushed the three farm acts through Parliament without discussion in September 2020. Ground protests broke out almost immediately. The government misread the mood and thought the protestors would melt away with the Covid-19 crisis.

The Long Haul

It all started with a huge show of strength on November 5, last year, when lakhs of farmers streamed in from Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh (UP) to block the entry points to the Capital. That blockade on the doors of Delhi continues.

The government has tried its best—it has held 11 rounds of talks and offered to amend the laws. It has cajoled farmers by agreeing to keep the farm laws in abeyance for 18 months. And when these things did not work, we saw the boot of the state on January 26, when the protestors entered Delhi. More than 400 protestors have so far died-claimed by Covid, police lathis, or Delhi's biting cold.

What is significant is their resilience. They have repeatedly said that the government narrative—that the agricultural laws would benefit farmers by opening out the markets to more players and therefore more sale options and better prices—is a Big Lie. The dismantling of the 'mandis' is nothing but the takeover of corporates, they point out.

That is why, the unequivocal stance: no amendments, no compromises. Repeal the acts!

The strategy of the farmers' leaders of going for the long haul seems to be paying off. The battle at the gates of Delhi has been sending reverberations elsewhere too. It was not a major issue in the Bengal elections, but the impact was there. The BJP was wiped out. Closer to Delhi, in Haryana, the BJP and its allies fared badly in the recent urban civic body elections, even losing in some of its urban bastions.

Impending elections

The farmers unions realize if they stay their course for a few more months, the BJP will be on a weaker wicket when election campaigning opens in five states-UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur. In Punjab, the ruling party as it is has been reduced to a cipher.

But the cherry in the bunch is obviously UP. The Yogi Adityanath government is already on the back foot with its lazy and inept handling of the second wave of the Covid pandemic. Thousands have died from the criminal policies of the government that persisted with the panchayat elections. And the voters hit back. Of the 3,050 zila parishad ward seats, the BJP managed to win just 900. It even lost its bastions—Ayodhya and Mathura.

One can also expect the Jat vote to turn. Last Lok Sabha election, Western UP's Jats were firmly with the BJP. Not anymore. The mainstay of the protestors from UP are Jats from the important farm belt in and around Meerut and Muzaffarnagar. They are now firmly aligned with Rakesh Tikait's BKU and Tikait has made it quite plain that he wants the BJP out.

For the BJP poll strategists, a sensible gambit would be to repeal the farm laws, and make peace. But the farmers are dealing with bloated egos and a patriarchal RSS ideology of dominance that does not believe in stepping back.

On a national plane, the farmers' persistent battle has put the issues around the agricultural economy center-stage. The lack of remunerative prices for farm products, and the attempt at corporatisation of the farm economy, had been swept under the carpet earlier.

When the protests first started, BJP spokespersons mocked that it was farmers only from Punjab. Then the protests spread to Haryana and UP, and then Rajasthan. Now, as the February 2022 state elections draw closer, one can expect the heat to increase.

Farmers want repeal

Protesting farmers have repeatedly said that the new laws dismantling mandis is the takeover of corporates

Protestors want the repeal of the newlaws

AMIT BANDRE

GoM to mull allowing states to levy Covid Cess

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

THE GST Council has said it will soon form Group of Ministers to examine allowing states to levy a Covid cess, especially those that have been hit by disasters and are dependent on the Centre for revenue. The 43rd GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, sat on Friday to discuss compensation to states, the extension of GST cess beyond five years, and a reduction in GST for various Covid-related essentials, including vaccines.

Also on the agenda was the Sikkim government's request seeking the imposition of a Covid cess on the power and pharmaceutical sector in the state for two years.

The move was supported by other states such as Arunanchal Pradesh and Goa. Arunachal's finance minister supported the proposal and said that small states should be allowed to impose a cess since they have to depend on the Centre for 90 per cent of finances. Sikkim had said that the move would help it mobilise additional revenues of over ₹250 crore.

Sources said the finance minister had assured that a a Group of Ministers (GOM) would be formed to study the proposal. The GoM will submit its recommendations after deliberation in two weeks.

This is not for the first time that the Council is considering a state's request to impose cess. According to the GST Act, a special levy can be imposed for a specified period to raise additional resources to cope with natural calamities or other special circumstances. In 2018, Kerala was allowed to impose a cess of 1 per cent on the sale of goods and services in the state for a maximum of two years.

However, experts claim that if Sikkim is allowed to levy a cess, other states will also come up with similar demand. Many states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Orissa have faced recent natural calamities.

The Council also rejected applying GST on Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA). ENA is the primary input for the manufacture of alcoholic beverages for human consumption.

GoM on Covid essentials

On Saturday, the Council announced that the GoM that will examine GST on Covid-related medical goods will be headed by Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, with Gujarat deputy CM Nitin Patel, Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar, Kerala FM K N Balagopal, Telengana FM T Harish Roa, Odisha FM Niranjan Pujari, UP FM Suresh Khanna and Goa transport minister Mauvin Godinho as members. The GoM will give its report on 8 June 2020.

Post-lockdown boost in spending pushes down Q3 household financial savings to 8.1% of GDP

SUNITHA NATTI

HOUSEHOLD financial savings rate fell to 8.1% of GDP in the quarter ended December, 2020 from a peak of 21% and 10.4% during the previous two quarters respectively, according to preliminary estimates by the Reserve Bank of India.

The estimated savings rate in Q3 remains flat over the pre-pandemic period, when it had stood at 8.1% in Q3 of FY20.

The decline was due to the unwinding of precautionary and forced savings seen during last year's peak pandemic months of April-June, 2020. However, subsequent months saw a steady rise in spending on consumer durables and other goods ahead of the festive season, as Indians switched from an 'essentials only' spending mode to making more discretionary spends. This reversed the unprecedented savings rate of 21% seen in the first quarter of FY21.

Preliminary estimates indicate, however, that household financial savings have plateaued to 8.1% in Q3 FY21 from the high of 21% in Q1, while a surge in retained earnings boosted savings by the non-financial corporate sector, which saw a sharp increase in Q3, RBI noted in its annual report.

It also warned that although aggregate savings increased during the pandemic, it, however, might conceal the unequal impact of savings and consumption expenditure on non-essential items as several households in the unorganised sector suffered from "loss of employment, income and borrowing opportunities."

The upshot is, FY21 may see an increase in annual household savings rate afterall, led by the June quarter's 21% growth rate. Presuming a trendline 8-9% growth in Q4, the annual savings rate will likely settle at 12% in FY21, higher than 7.2% and 8% registered in FY19 and FY20 respectively.

Domestic savings rate, particularly that of households, is critical as it determines the quantum of funds available for governments and corporates to borrow from. Indian households account for about 60% of the country's savings, but this is falling gradually. Lower domestic savings exposes borrowers to overseas markets, weakening India's external position and raising external debt.

India's savings rate had touched a 15-year-low as gross domestic savings stood at 30.9% of GDP in FY20, down from a peak of 34.6% in FY12. AHousehold savings fell from 23% of GDP in 2012 to 18% in 2019.

Typically, financial savings data comes with a lag and, currently, the RBI has released estimates for only for two quarters of FY21. The central bank is expected to release Household Financial Savings and Household Debt-GDP Ratio for Q3 FY21 in July, while the National Statistics Office publishes annual figures in January.

In Q2, increased household consumption, particularly its discretionary component, could be attributed to a resumption in economic activity following the easing of the lockdowns. The reversal in household financial savings is corroborated by the lower surplus in the current account balance. Household debt to GDP ratio rose sharply to 37.1% in Q2, from 35.4% in Q1.

21 per cent
Household financial savings rate in Q1FY21

12 per cent
estimated HFS rate in FY21

8 per cent
Household financial savings rate in FY20

FOREIGN FUNDS

FDI from US, UAE see sharp jump in FY21, Singapore continues to be leader

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

WITH Mauritius and Singapore losing their capital gains tax benefit after the amendment in the tax treaty with India, new regimes are emerging as major contributors to India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows.

Data released by the Department for Promotion Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) shows that countries like the US, UAE, and Cayman Islands are clocking higher numbers as far as the FDI into India is concerned. FDI from the US has more than tripled from $4.2 billion in FY20 to $12.8 billion in FY21, while those from the UAE have seen a 13-fold growth from $0.339 billion in FY20 to $4.2 billion in FY21. Singapore, though, continues to be the biggest contributor to FDI inflows into India at $17.4 billion in FY21, up 18% over the previous fiscal year.

After the amendment of its tax treaty with India, Mauritius continues to decline as a source of FDI. In FY21, FDI from Mauritius fell 31.5% from $8.2 billion in FY20 to $5.6 billion. Mauritius' loss has been Singapore's gain and the latter has emerged as the leading FDI contributor to India.

With Mauritius and Singapore losing their capital gains tax benefits, a lot of investors rerouted some of their investments through new regimes

Yogesh Singh, Partner, Trilegal

While India also amended its tax treaty with Singapore after it did so with Mauritius, some of the investments shifted to Singapore because it already had a 'limitation of benefit' clause, which gave certainty to investors. A limitation of benefit clause prevents shell companies from availing benefits of tax treaties.

So what explains the growth of FDI from countries like the US and UAE? "With Mauritius and Singapore losing their capital gains tax benefits, a lot of investors rerouted some of their investments through new regimes. UAE, for example, became a very friendly investment regime. So, with structures... routing money from Mauritius and Singapore now gone, investors do not feel hesitant in directly investing in India," says Yogesh Singh, partner at law firm Trilegal.

Amit Jindal, co-founder of CA firm Felix Advisory, attributes the increase in direct investment from the US to a lot of changes in Indian and US tax laws. He notes that there have been quite a number of changes in the US focusing on discouraging profit-parking in low tax jurisdictions via reforms such as a tax on Global Intangible Low Tax Income and annual reporting of country-by-country income.

He also feels that since the abolition of Dividend Distribution Tax in India makes dividends taxable in the hands of investors, they can claim credit in their home country for taxes paid in India. This encourages investors in the US to directly invest in India.

Defender Alaba joins Real Madrid from Bayern

Real Madrid strengthened its defense by signing David Alaba after the defender ended his highly successful stint at Bayern Munich. Madrid said the 28-year-old Alaba agreed to a five-year contact. His official presentation will be after the European Championship where he will play for Austria, the club said.

AFTER LONG WAIT, NEERAJ GETS FRANCE VISA, TO LEAVE SOON

THE uncertainty around competitions, denial of visas because of Covid-related travel restrictions. Te cruelty of waiting for something to happen can be crushing. For javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who is India's medal hope at the Tokyo Games, it was a nightmare.

Every time there has been an interaction, he would talk about going abroad for training and competition. His tone kept changing as the days passed by and nothing looked certain anymore. In early March, after he created the national record, he narrated his wish-list with hope. Then in May during an interaction arranged by Sports Authority of India and the Target Olympics Podium Scheme, he sounded morose, almost hopeless. He couldn't find a place to train in Europe because of restrictions due to Covid in India. His visa for Sweden was denied. The TOP Scheme, Athletics Federation of India and his supporter JSW Sports too were trying.

Now, after weeks, Neeraj may finally fly out of India, hopefully, in the next few days. France is the country, a destination where he will train during a period of isolation. Other logistics are being worked out, especially his base. The good news is the visa was granted on Friday.

The visa was possible after sports ministry, TOPS and the Ministry of External Affairs helped him. Neeraj and his team are waiting for a letter from the French government, which is expected by Monday. If everything goes as per plan and paperwork is over by Monday, Neeraj might fly on Monday night or Tuesday. Though he would be in mandatory quarantine, he will be able to train and would start competing around mid-June.

What seems heartening to Neeraj's camp is that not too many top javelin throwers except Johannes Vetter (six events and five 90+ throws; PB 96.29m) have started competing regularly. Like pointed out last time, Estonia's Magnus Kirt (best of 90.61m) and Rio Olympic gold winner Germany's Thomas Rohler (best of 93.90m) have not competed in 2021. Another German, Andreas Hofmann (PB 92.06m), hasn't competed since 2019. It's the same with Julius Tego (PB 92.72m), who won silver in Rio.

World Champion Andreson Peters of Grenada too has had five meets under his belt but his best is 83.39m. Neeraj has already thrown a 88.07m, a national record in March this year. His coach Klaus Bartonietz too will be joining him.

Neeraj would be looking for at least four to five competitions in Europe before flying to Tokyo. There are a host of meets, but he may compete at Brno in Czech Republic on June 13 after he finishes quarantine. Then a few World Athletics Continental Tour (bronze & silver) events. The Kladenské Memorial in Kladno (CZE). Other competitions where he can participate are Marid Meeting on June 19, Karstad Grand Prix on June 22, Kuortane Games in Finland on June 26, with Luzern being the last event in June. In July, they might target London Diamond League and one more event in mid July. Neeraj is expected to fly by the end of July for his event in August.

The way the situation is changing every hour, until he flies, we won't know for sure.

Time for French toast

The end of the spring season in Paris coincides with the beginning of the French Open, the year's second Major. The latest edition is filled with intrigue. Here's a look at some of the plot points...

NADAL'S DESTINY

Rafa Nadal needs one more Slam to move clear of Roger Federer. Having unveiled a statue of himself at Roland Garros earlier this week, the Spaniard looks primed to win his 14th Major on the dirt and his 21st overall. But, seeded third, he finds himself in the same half as both Novak Djokovic and the returning Roger Federer, a potential problem.

THE EXPECTED STORIES

Both Federer's return (his second Paris Major since 2015) and Serena Williams eyeing her 24th Major will fit into this. For the Swiss, this is nothing but an exercise in fitness before grass season as well as the Olympics while Serena is 7 matches away from being the greatest ever.

THE PRETENDERS

Look out for Stefanos Tsitsipas, Sascha Zverev, Aryna Sabalenka and Sofia Kenin, who is the only Major winner in this group. Tennis is perhaps the only sport where a lot of column inches are dedicated to future superstars. While the why can be debated, these four have as good a chance as any to reach the final.

5 TOP SEEDS

MEN: 1 Novak Djokovic, 2 Daniil Medvedev, 3 Rafael Nadal, 4 Dominic Thiem, 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas; **WOMEN:** 1 Ashleigh Barty, 2 Naomi Osaka, 3 Aryna Sabalenka, 4 Sofia Kenin, 5 Elina Svitolina

4 No of wins Osaka has had in the last three tournaments (Miami, Madrid and Rome)

1 This will be Federer's first Major since last year's Australian Open

2016 Last time Serena went past the third round in Paris

7 There have been seven different women's champions from 2014

2005 Only four men have won the French Open since 2005

LIVE ONSTAR SPORTS NETWORK / 2.30 PM IST

For Bajrang, it's all about positive energy

India's Olympic medal hope in wrestling says besides reading books, his coach and physiotherapist helped him to stay motivated

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THESE are trying times for everyone and athletes are no different. The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted their schedule. Given the situation, many athletes have sought mental help to counter anxiety, loneliness and lack of motivation.

Ace wrestler Bajrang Punia, however, never felt the need for consulting a psychologist as the ecosystem around him kept him motivated. "I used to read books during lockdown to stay motivated. My physiotherapist and coaches also kept motivating me. All who stayed with me have boosted me. Fortunately, I never needed a psychologist. I have always been positive," said the 65kg grappler from Haryana during an online interaction facilitated by the Sports Authority of India on Saturday.

The 27-year-old admitted postponement of the Tokyo Games by a year was a big challenge for sportspersons. "Maintaining fitness was a big challenge. Age was another factor as many athletes thought of retiring after the 2020 Games. So postponement has certainly affected us."

As was reported by this daily, Bajrang decided to skip Poland Ranking Series scheduled next month. Instead, he has decided to undergo a training-cum-competition camp in Russia Vladikavkaz. "We tried to bring in sparring partners here but the plan didn't materialise due to the Covid situation. I have worked enough on my fitness for the past one-and-a-half-years and need training with sparring partners now. Any flaw in my wrestling will only be ironed out by sparring with good partners. I can also improve my technique. That's why we have decided to train in Russia," he said.

Bajrang's weight category is one of the most competitive divisions in the world and the wrestler believes only proper training will keep him in good stead ahead of the quadrennial event. "In my division, anyone from 10-12 selected wrestlers can come out triumphant on a given day. No one is favourite and that's why I need to train harder. I have worked on my leg defence and saw the difference during the 2021 Asian Championships. There are several good wrestlers in Russia and I can improve my game immensely by training with them." He also wishes to go straight to Tokyo from Russia, if possible.

Bajrang said every wrestler has a different style of play and he banks more on power and endurance than technicality while on the mat. He also expects Indian wrestlers to win three-four medals at the Olympics. "We have a good mix of youth and experience in the team this time. I hope we produce the best result."

There is a chance the Games will be held behind closed doors due to the existing situation and Bajrang feels it will work in his favour while competing against home favourite Japanese wrestler Takuto Otoguro. "Home advantage matters but this time with no crowd expected, it will be same for everyone.

EXPRESS READ

KOA provide financial assistance to Najib, Tejaswini

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Olympic Association, on Friday, extended financial assistance of one lakh to judoka Najib Aga for his Covid-19 treatment. Besides, Rs one lakh was also provided to Kabaddi player, Tejaswini Bai as her husband passed away recently due to Covid-19.

Gangjee climbs to third spot in Mizuno Open

OKAYAMA: Indian golfer Rahil Gangjee shot a sensational six-under 66, his best round of the year, to climb to the Tied-third after the second round at the Mizuno Open, on Saturday. In case he makes it, it will be his maiden appearance at a Major.

IPL to resume in UAE from Sep 19 or 20

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

THE Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in their special general meeting (SGM) on Saturday decided to host the remaining 31 matches of the suspended IPL 2021 in the UAE. Interestingly, the BCCI has cited the monsoon as the primary reason for taking it to the UAE after it failed to finish the tournament at home in the wake of several Covid-19 positive cases in the IPL.

The tournament will likely begin on September 19 or 20 with the BCCI still working out the final details. The BCCI also has to get necessary permission from the UAE government too and with its borders shut for Indians, things haven't moved as fast as expected. The BCCI is keen on sending a couple of executives to the Gulf, but with air travel suspended between the two countries, the board is understood to be waiting for clearance from respective authorities.

At the meeting held virtually, while all of them unanimously agreed to resume the IPL, several seem to have raised the availablity of overseas players. As things stand only South Africa and West Indies players are guaranteed to participate. England and Wales Cricket Board has made it clear that even if it chooses to rest key players, it won't be releasing them for the IPL. With the T20 World Cup slotted to begin mid-October, it remains to be seen if Cricket Australia and New Zealand Cricket release their players.

The decision of the ECB will not only take the gloss of the IPL, but it leaves several teams weak. Chennai Super Kings, Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders, Delhi Capitals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings have at least one Englishman in their regular XI. CSK and RR will be the most affected as their English imports have played a crucial role so far in the season.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

PAY ISSUE

Meanwhile, with regards to compensation package for domestic cricket stakeholders, the Haryana Cricket Association is understood to have raised the issue at the meeting. But since it was not part of agenda, BCCI said it will be discussed in separate meeting.

T20 WORLD CUP

With regards to hosting the T20 World Cup in India, the BCCI will seek a month's extension to decide on the venue. The BCCI wants the ICC to take the decision by July end with the UAE already being marked as a backup.

Our experience should help us: Ashwin

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

ACE spinner R Ashwin feels if batsmen can chip in runs around skipper Virat Kohli, India stand a good chance to get results against England. During an interview with *The New Indian Express*, Ashwin — who is in quarantine in Mumbai — spoke about Pujara and Rahane's influence in the team, his bowling approach to rival batsmen and more. Excerpts...

Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane were not at their best against England at home. Your thoughts.

When things are not going right, we always feel a new commodity or a different commodity will do much better. When you are talking about people who have played in excess of 50 Test matches (Rahane) and played in excess of 75 Test matches (Pujara) and have been champion performers, we are forgetting things. We just don't look at the champion performance that Rahane produced on the way to the greatest Test series we played in Australia. He batted beautifully and got a hundred (at MCG).

Can India beat England in their own backyard for the first time since 2007?

England play good cricket on their pitches. They have shown how good they are in their conditions. James Anderson will make it as difficult as it can be for us. The conditions are key in England, but the experience that this Indian team has should hold us in good stead. If other players chip in and make runs with Virat Kohli around, we stand a good chance to win.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Asian C'ships: Basumatary's loss is Lalbuatsaihi's gain

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

LALBUATSAIHI made short work of her opponent in the women's 64kg semifinal on Thursday, which was her opening bout in the ongoing Asian Championships in Dubai. From the sound of the bell, the boxer from Mizoram displayed raw power by landing some telling blows to overwhelm Kuwait's Noura Almutairi. She kept up the relentless attack throughout the opening round as Almutaira struggled to cope. After just over 80 seconds into the second round, the coaches from the Almutaira's camp had seen enough. They conceded the fight on behalf of the helpless pugilist.

What's interesting is Lalbuatsaihi was not even supposed to be part of this team initially. Based on trials results, Assam boxer Pwilao Basumatary was supposed to be representing the country in the 64kg category. But Basumatary couldn't make the trip due to delay in visa application process due to lockdown. Basumatary's unfortunate loss is proving to be Lalbuatsaihi's lucky break.

"In sports, it is common to see the No 2 players become stronger than first-choice players as soon as the former gets the opportunity. She is an excellent boxer and is very brave. She just needs to gain experience and improve her technical skills. I'm not surprised with her good show and I'm delighted with this result," Raffaele Bergamasco, India women's high performance coach, said.

Coming from a humble background, she has been supporting her mother, who runs a garment shop. She's had constant battle within on whether to pursue her boxing dream or find a stable job to support her family. One of the four women from India who'll be action in the finals on Saturday, she will now look to make this rare opportunity count and bag gold.

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ಕ್ರಸಂ: E-Office file no.13332/2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.05.2021
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ಅ)	ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್:	04-06-2021 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 11-30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಬ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	05-06-2021 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 5-30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಕ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	07-06-2021 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4-00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಡ)	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	08-06-2021 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4-30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಬ)	ಆರ್ಥಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	10-06-2021 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4-30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೈಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.
DIP-BKT-84/2021-22

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The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
KMML (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
SANKARAMANGALAM, CHAVARA-691583, KOLLAM, KERALA,INDIA.
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 2651217, Fax : +91-0476-2680101, 2686721
E-mail : contact@kmml.com, URL www.kmml.com
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No.	Tender ID	Items
1.	2021_KMML_423758_1	For the supply of 2X15 KVA UPS
2.	2021_KMML_423754_1	For the supply of High purity Liquid Argon

Chavara 29/05/2021 sd/- DGM(Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd.
Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಬಂದರು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳನಾಡು ಜಲಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division , Ballari
No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-3/F-158/2021-22/761 Date: 28-05-2021
Tender Corrigendum Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)
Sub: Corrigendum to Tender notification
Ref:-This Office Tender Notification
No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-3/F-158/2021-22/736 Dated: 26-05-2021
The tender for the following work notified in the tender notification referred above has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances. Tenderers please note
TABLE

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	KPWD/2020-21/BD/WORK _INDENT134147/CALL-2	250.00

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division , Ballari

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, P.U. Building, 9th Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
No.EE/SN/TEND/01/2021-22 Date: 29-05-2021
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Call-2)
(Single Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)
The Executive Engineer, (Shanthinagar Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organisations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Providing temporary Control Room in Shanthinagara Sub Division for Duration of 4 Months Consists of Two Parts Viz. in Ward No.111,116,117. (Call-2). PART-A (Hire Charges for Machineries and Labour). Estimated Cost : Rs.4.92 Lakhs. PART-B (One-time Procurement of Equipments & Materials). Estimated Cost : Rs.0.49 Lakhs).	6.00
EMD (in ₹.)	As per Govt. Declaration	

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from 31-05-2021. (2) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on 07-06-2021 before 4:00 p.m. (3) The opening of tenders will be on 08-06-2021 at 4:30 p.m. Further particulars can be obtained from the above Office during working hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, BBMP.
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Vietnam finds new variant, a hybrid of India, UK strains

Tests suggest this virus version spreads more quickly than others, country's health minister said; genetic sequence to be uploaded

A file image of masked-up commuters in Hanoi, Vietnam | AFP

HEALTH

HANOI: Vietnam has discovered a new coronavirus variant that's a hybrid of strains first found in India and the UK, the Vietnamese health minister said Saturday.

Nguyen Thanh Long said scientists examined the genetic makeup of the virus that had infected some recent patients, and found the new version of the virus. He said lab tests suggested it might spread more easily than other versions of the virus.

"The characteristic of this strain is that it spreads quickly in the air. The concentration of virus in the throat fluid increases rapidly and spreads very strongly to the surrounding environment."

Viruses often develop small genetic changes as they reproduce, and new variants of the coronavirus have been seen almost since it was first detected in China in late 2019. The World Health Organization has listed four global "variants of concern" – the two first found in the UK and India, plus ones identified in South Africa and Brazil.

Long says the new variant could be responsible for a recent surge in Vietnam, which has spread to 30 of the country's 63 municipalities and provinces.

He did not specify the number of cases recorded with this new variant but said Vietnam will soon announce the discovery in the world's map of genetic strains.

Vietnam was initially a standout success in battling the virus — in early May, it had recorded just over 3,100 confirmed cases and 35 deaths since the start of the pandemic. But in the last few weeks, Vietnam has confirmed more than 3,500 new cases and 12 deaths, increasing the country's total death toll to 47.

Most of the new transmissions were found in Bac Ninh and Bac Giang, two provinces dense with industrial zones where hundreds of thousands of people work for major companies including Samsung, Canon and Luxshare, a partner in assembling Apple products. Despite strict health regulations, a company in Bac Giang discovered that one fifth of its 4,800 workers had tested positive for the virus.

In Ho Chi Minh City, the country's largest metropolis and home to 9 million, at least 85 people have tested positive as part of a cluster at a Protestant church, the Health Ministry said. Worshippers sang and chanted while sitting close together without wearing proper masks or taking other precautions.

Vietnam has since ordered a nationwide ban on all religious events. In major cities, authorities have banned large gatherings, closed public parks and non-essential business including in-person restaurants, bars, clubs and spas.

Vietnam so far has vaccinated 1 million people with AstraZeneca shots. Last week, it sealed a deal with Pfizer for 30 million doses, which are scheduled to be delivered in the third and fourth quarters of this year. It is also in talks with Moderna that would give it enough shots to fully vaccine 80% of its 96 million people.

There were seven known coronavirus variants in Vietnam before Long's announcement, according to the Ministry of Health.

In nearby Thailand, the government on Saturday took exception to media reports in Britain that labelled a new strain causing concern there as the "Thai variant".

EXFILE • SPACE

Where life can exist in our solar system

Crushing atmospheric pressure, hellish temperatures, virtually bottomless oceans — most planets and their moons in our solar system are forbidding places that cannot support life. But some have relatively stable and life-forming conditions that can support the existence of micro-organisms at least. We take a look

Mars' surface is bombarded with radiation and can't sustain life, but it's subsurface ice or even water can support microbes

The vast interior ocean under the Jupiter moon's surface, covered with a huge ice shell, could be potentially habitable

Jets erupting from this Saturn moon indicate hydrothermal vents below the surface, which can give rise to some microbial life

A magnetic shield, plate tectonics and plenty of water are the key ingredients for the creation and sustenance of life in our planet

BASIS OF COMPARISON

It's important to know that Earth may not have always looked the way it does now — "a pale blue dot", as Carl Sagan put it

Though our planet supports life, billions of years ago Earth probably had a orange-ish atmosphere filled with methane from microbes

Hence, planets that seem not habitable now could possess characteristics that can allow complex life to be born in the (distant) future

IMPORTANCE OF PLATE TECTONICS

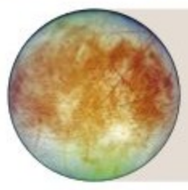
Earth may have one key factor that is absent in many other planets: plate tectonics. Continents move over millions of years and recycle buried nutrients from below to the surface. Mars, for example, does not have plate tectonics, leading some scientists to believe that the planet is effectively dead, though methane has been detected in its atmosphere — an indication of microbial life under the surface

VENUS

Astronomers speculate that Venus was once like ancient Earth with large oceans. But an extreme greenhouse effect turned the Earth-sized planet into a hottest world in our solar system. Though recent research has pointed to the existence of phosphine, a potential sign of life, on Venus clouds, scientists say it could be a misintrepretation of telescope data

3 MOONS OF HOPE

Exciting possibilities for life in the solar system are these three moons: Europa of Jupiter, and Titan and Enceladus of Saturn



A popular movie **Europa** tells a fictional journey of astronauts in search of life to the frozen celestial body. Space probes have found evidence of a vast ocean of liquid water beneath the icy surface. Importantly, the ocean may be touching a rocky interior, providing room for life to be born

Extremely cold Titan may be experiencing very slow chemical processes

Titan is most promising in terms of finding life. It is the only other celestial body in the solar system to have rain, rivers and lakes, though they are made of methane and ethane. It also has an ocean of water deep beneath the surface

In **Enceladus**, the water ocean is more accessible; there may not be a need to drill into the subsurface to collect samples for study

Lower Pfizer vaccine efficacy against B.1.617

RESEARCH

PARIS: The Pfizer vaccine is slightly less effective but appears to still protect against the more transmissible Indian strain of the virus that causes Covid-19, according to a study by France's Pasteur Institute.

"Despite slightly diminished efficacy, the Pfizer vaccine probably protects" against the Indian variant, according to laboratory test results, said Olivier Schwartz, the institute's director and co-author of the study that was published on the BioRxiv website ahead of peer review.

The study sampled 28 healthcare workers in the city of Orleans. Sixteen of them had received two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, while 12 had received one dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

People who had received two doses of Pfizer saw a three-fold reduction in their antibodies against the Indian variant, B.1.617, according to the study, but were still protected.

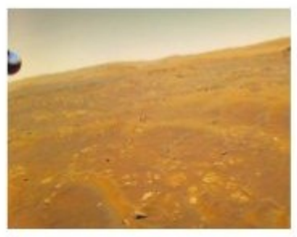
"The situation was different with the AstraZeneca vaccine, which induced particularly low levels of antibodies neutralising" the Indian variant, the study said.

Patients who had had Covid-19 within the past year and people vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer retained enough antibodies to be protected against the Indian variant, but three to six times less antibodies than against the UK variant, Schwartz said.

The study shows that "this variant.. has acquired partial resistance to antibodies," Schwartz said. Since first emerging in late 2019 in China, the SARS-CoV-2 virus has developed several variants, usually named for the places where it first appeared.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Navigation error on Mars



TECHNOLOGY

A navigation timing error sent NASA's little Mars helicopter on a wild, lurching ride, its first major problem since it took to the Martian skies last month. The helicopter, named Ingenuity, managed to land safely, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory reported. The trouble cropped up about a minute into the helicopter's sixth test flight last Saturday at 33 feet. One of the pictures taken by an on-board camera did not register in the navigation system, throwing the entire timing sequence off and confusing the craft about its location. Ingenuity began tilting back and forth as much as 20 degrees and suffered power consumption spikes.

Virus no bar at Everest

HEALTH

A year after Mount Everest was closed to climbers as the pandemic swept across the globe, hundreds are making the final push to the summit with only a few more days left in the season, saying they are undeterred by a coronavirus outbreak in base camp. Three expedition teams to Everest canceled their climb this month following reports of people getting sick. But the remaining 41 teams decided to continue with hundreds of climbers and their guides scaling the 29,032-foot top in the season that ends in May, before bad weather sets in. Nepalese officials have downplayed reports of coronavirus cases.

US nuclear secrets exposed via apps

TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON: US troops charged with guarding nuclear weapons in Europe used popular education websites to create flash cards, exposing their exact locations and top-secret security protocols, according to the investigative site Bellingcat.

To familiarize themselves with things like which shelters in various locations had "hot" vaults with live nuclear bombs, with security patrol schedules, and with identification badge details, the soldiers created digital flash card sets on apps like Chegg Prep, Quizlet and Cram. "By simply searching online for terms publicly known to be associated with nuclear weapons, Bellingcat was able to discover cards used by military personnel serving at all six European military bases reported to store nuclear devices," wrote Foeke Postma, the author of the Bellingcat article.

They found one set of 70 flashcards on Chegg, entitled "Study!", which noted the exact shelters containing nuclear weapons at Volkel Air Base in the Netherlands.

"How many WS3 vaults are there on Volkel ab," said the question side of one virtual flash card, referring to the military term for weapons storage and security systems.

"eleven (11)" it read on the answer side.

Another card from the same set indicated that five of the eleven vaults were "hot" with nuclear bombs while the other 6 were "cold," and specified which vaults.

FARMS RAVAGED

Banned poison from India to fight mice plague in Oz

AGRICULTURE

AT night, the floors of sheds vanish beneath carpets of scampering mice. Ceilings come alive with the sounds of scratching. One family blamed mice chewing electrical wires for their house burning down.

Vast tracts of land in Australia's New South Wales state are being threatened by a mouse plague that the state government describes as "absolutely unprecedented." Just how many millions of rodents have infested the agricultural plains across the state is guesswork.

"We're at a critical point now where if we don't significantly reduce the number of mice that are in plague proportions by spring, we are facing an absolute economic and social crisis in rural and regional New South Wales," Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall said this month.

Mice scurry around stored grain on a farm near Tottenham, Australia | AP

Bruce Barnes said he is taking a gamble by planting crops on his family farm near the central New South Wales town of Bogan Gate. "We just sow and hope," he said.

The risk is that the mice will maintain their numbers through the Southern Hemisphere winter and devour the wheat, barley and canola before it can be harvested.

NSW Farmers, the state's top agricultural association, predicts the plague will wipe more than 1 billion Australian dollars ($775 million) from the value of the winter crop.

The state government has ordered 5,000 litres of the banned poison Bromadiolone from India. The federal government regulator has yet to approve emergency applications to use the poison on the perimeters of crops. Critics fear the poison will kill not only mice but also animals that feed on them. including wedge-tail eagles and family pets.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

STAY HOME STAY SAFE

As COVID continues its onslaught, our homes are the safe havens for us to stay in and be protected. Step out only for supplies and also limit those occasions to the bare minimum. A regular inventory check will help in planning for the week. Stay home and lend your support!

Sanitize frequently | Wear a Mask | Maintain social distancing

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